Interact Switch
DESIGN RATIONALE

Makers Making Change
A Neil Squire Program

Overview

The Design Rationale is intended to provide designers and maker information about the design process and design decisions behind the development of the Interact Switch, a customizable assistive switch with a large activation area.

V2.0 | July 2025

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Introduction

The original design for the Interact Switch came from the design by Mark Turvey.

Detailed Design

Initial Changes

The initial changes made to the original design were

- Increases the screw hole size in the ButtonCapHolder to accept both M2.5 screws as well as #4 3/8" screws.

- Lines up the holes in the base with the holes in the ButtonCapHolder.

- Deepens the countersink in the Base for the screws.

- Removes the need for supports on the Base piece.

- Decreases the required sanding by tapering the tabs on the ButtonCapHolder.

Improvements over time

Further changes were made over time to the following components

Base

Cable Routing

Changes were made to the cable routing path to make the cable align better to the position of the switch

Button Cap

Upside Down Print Issues

The filets and arcs on the bottom of the button cap caused print quality issues with bridging when printed upside down. For the textured caps this was not a large issue since it was not printed upside down, but did pose an issue for the plain cap. The arcs and filets were replaced with a straight line to improve the bridging when printed upside down.

Button Cap Holder

Screw Insertion

When assembling the device, some users were having trouble aligning the screw with the holes in the Button Cap Holder, and the screws would sometimes screw into the wall of the holder instead of the hole.

A 0.6mm chamfer was added to the hole to catch and guide the screw into the hole.

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Screw Torque

When using the #4 sheet metal screw, the torque required to tighten the screw broke some of the holders. The hole was loosened to 3.0mm to get a much better tightening torque, but this makes the base and the cap holder no longer backwards compatible with the original, as it no longer works with M2.5 screws.

Opportunities for Improvement

There are further opportunities for improvement that have been identified

- Create a customization guide to specifically help choose between topper options
- Better indicate the orientation of the switch when assembling the device
- Clarify how to use the base as a soldering jig
- Change the shape of the button cap for better bridging

Commented [SD3]: Are there OFIs?