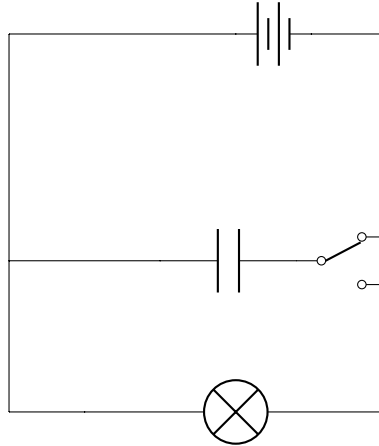


Capacitors

A capacitor is constructed from two conducting plates separated by an insulator. Charge can flow onto and off the plates but not across the plates.

Charging circuit for a capacitor



When charging the current flows round the top half of the circuit, when discharging the SPDT is changed to the other output and the current flows round the bottom half of the circuit.

Capacitors can be used as simple timers in circuits.

The time it takes to charge/discharge depends on:

- The capacitance of the capacitor (**C**)
- The resistance of the charging/discharging circuit (**R**)