



## THE BBQ TONG GRIP SWITCH

An easy to make single switch with various positioning options

By Niall Brown, Administrator, CreativeExpressionsWeb.ca

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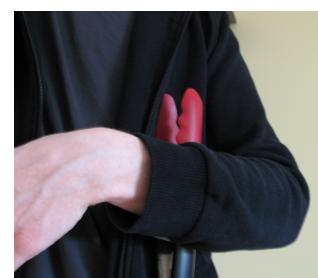
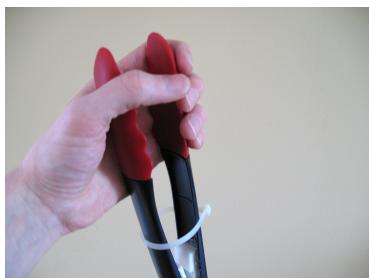
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**DO NOT use this switch with individuals who may tear apart devices or swallow small parts.**

**Please keep documentation with the switch that communicates this warning or write it directly on the switch.**

The BBQ tong switch is a single switch that can be put together with parts you can find at dollar stores and your local electronics parts supplier.

This switch was designed to be very versatile by allowing it to be used in many different positions.



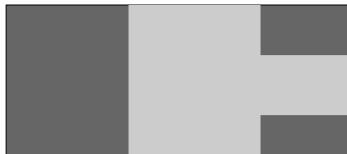
These are just a few of the positions I have used with individuals who have limited mobility but there are many more options, such as pushing one side of the tongs under a wheelchair waist strap so the individual's arm activates it by pressing against their hip with their elbow. There are lots of possibilities.

### You will need:

- A sturdy pair of BBQ or salad tongs with a groove in the handle where the switch can be mounted
- 2 Erasers that roughly fit in those grooves
- Hot glue
- Wire
- A mono  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mini jack
- A switch that fits the space pictured in step 1 and can be mounted in the carved out eraser
- A zip tie or a piece of sturdy cloth and sewing materials

## Instructions:

1. Carve out 1 eraser so that the switch will fit snugly inside and don't forget a place for the wires to come out. For this switch I carved it as follows (it may differ depending on the pair of tongs). Glue the erasers into place. Wait to install the switch.



2. Attach the wires to the switch.
3. In most cases the wires can be threaded through an opening at the back of the tongs.



4. Hot glue the switch into place.



5. Twist the sheath off the mono ¼ inch mini jack to expose the two terminals. Wrap or solder the ends of the wires to the terminals.



6. The switch needs to stay almost closed but not depressed. There are 3 options:

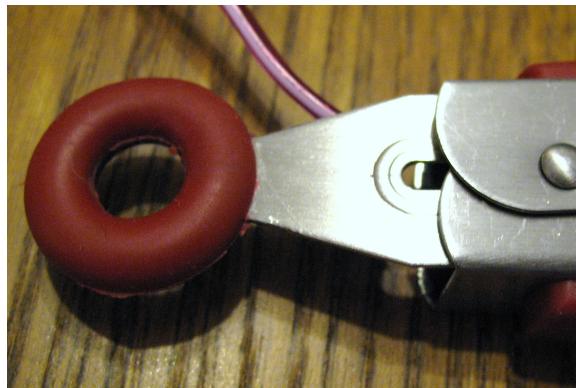
- Wrap it in cloth and sew it up. Leave it loose enough that the switch is not depressed. **This is the best option because it makes the parts inside inaccessible. It should always be used for metal tongs to avoid pinches from the hinge.**



- Another option is to use a zip tie to hold it part way closed. This tends to slip or accidentally tighten.



- Some tongs have a knob on the back and when it is pulled out the tongs will stay partly closed.



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