



**Power Select  
Environmental  
Control Unit**

# **American Printing House for the Blind (APH)**

Empowering people who are blind or low vision by providing accessible and innovative products, materials, and services for lifelong success.

## **Power Select**

The Power Select is a control unit that enables individuals to communicate and control electrical and battery-operated (with an AC adapter source) toys, appliances, and devices. The unit was designed specifically for APH's assistive devices; however, it can be used in other learning applications and daily living skills.

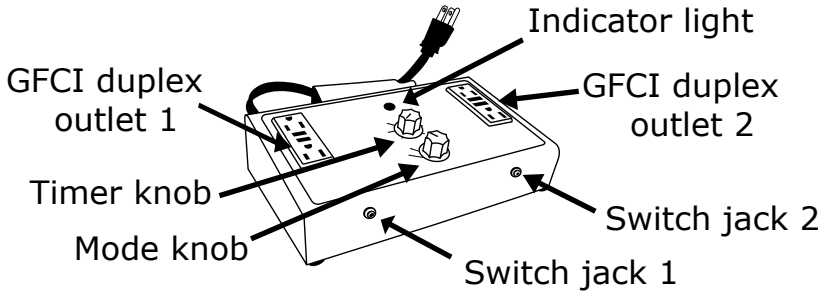
NOTE: The Power Select is designed for 110-130 VAC only. Use of adapters for 220 systems is not recommended.

## **Introduction**

The Power Select control unit enables switch operation of electrical devices. The Power Select includes features that make it useful for individuals with severe motor disabilities and cognitive impairments.

## Features

- Two GFCI duplex outlets (total of 1700 watts per side)
- Two switch jacks to provide choice-making opportunities (Any switch with a 1/8 inch (3.5 mm) mono plug or adapter may be used.)



- Four modes of control to meet the user's needs
- A low slanting profile to allow easy accessibility
- Rounded corners for safety
- A wrap-around carrying handle with closure to store the power cord when not in use

## Mode of Control

The Power Select provides four types of appliance control: Direct mode; Timed Seconds mode; Timed Minutes mode; and Latch mode. Prior to using the Power Select and choosing a Mode of Control for a first-time switch user, consult with a professional person who is qualified to assess the abilities and limitations of the learner. Consider all the learner's disabilities and impairments and review the learner's goals.

## Direct

The direct mode keeps the appliance(s) on only while the switch is activated (pressed down). Many first-time switch users prefer this mode. A learner enjoys the breeze created by the fan on her wheelchair tray. She learns that she controls the fan/breeze by keeping the switch pressed down.

To select, turn the mode knob (lower knob) to the **Direct** ↓ position. The upper knob is not used in this mode. The appliance will turn on when the switch is activated (pressed down) and will turn off when the switch is released.

## Timed Seconds

The Timed Seconds mode allows the appliance to run for a preset amount of time, from 1 to 60 seconds, with a single activation. For example, set the vibrating pad for the desired number of seconds. When it stops, watch closely for the learner to cue you to continue and then activate the switch again. Teach the learner to activate the switch. This mode can also be used to teach vocational and daily living skills like sharpening a pencil with an electric sharpener or making blender drinks and snacks.

To select, turn the mode knob to the **Timed Seconds (S)** position, and the timer knob (upper knob) to the number of seconds you wish the appliance to remain on. When the time has expired, the Power Select will automatically turn off the appliance even if the user is still pressing the switch.

## Timed Minutes

The Timed Minutes mode allows the appliance to run for a preset amount of time, from 1 to 60 minutes, with a single activation. This mode is useful for lengthier, self-activated routines like using an electric massager or calming one's arousal state using a vibrating pad, listening to music, or activating a bubble blowing machine.

To select, turn the mode knob to the **Timed Minutes (M)** position, and the timer knob to the number of minutes you wish the appliance to remain on. When the time has expired, the control unit will turn off the appliance even if the user is still pressing the switch.

If you do not want to wait for the set time to expire, turn the mode knob to any other mode of control and the appliance will shut off.

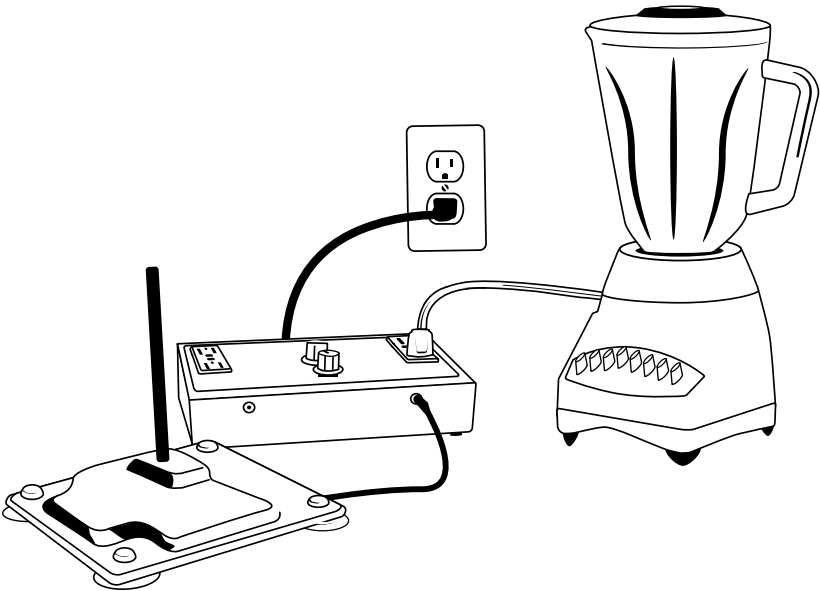
## Latch

The first activation of the switch turns the appliance ON; the second activation turns it OFF. The Latch mode can be used when an individual wants an appliance, such as a television, DVD/cassette player, lamp, or hair dryer to remain on for an extended length of time.

To select, turn the lower knob to the **Latch** ↓↓ position. The timer knob is not used in this mode. The appliance will turn on when the switch is activated, and turn off when it is activated again.

# Setting Up

1. Plug the appliance(s) or device(s) into either Outlet 1 or Outlet 2 on the Power Select.
2. Plug the switch into Switch Jack 1 or Switch Jack 2 (corresponding to Outlet 1 or Outlet 2). The switch must have a 1/8 inch (3.5 mm) mono plug or adapter.
3. Plug the Power Select into a grounded electrical outlet. (Use a grounding adapter if electrical supply mains are not grounded.)
4. Turn the appliance to the ON or PLAY position. For an appliance with pressure-sensitive ON/OFF control, tape the appliance's control button/switch in the ON position.
5. Select a mode of control.
6. Activate the switch.



# Simultaneous Appliance Operation

If two appliances are plugged into one GFCI duplex outlet at the same time, they will operate simultaneously when activated with the one corresponding switch.

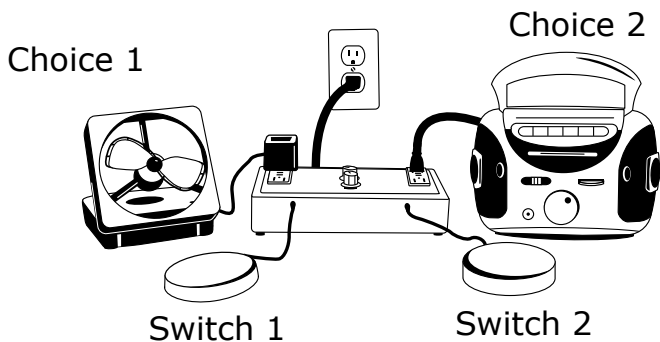
**Never connect two heat-producing appliances to one GFCI duplex outlet, such as a heating pad and a hair dryer. Two appliances plugged into one duplex outlet cannot exceed 1700 watts combined.**

Appliances plugged into Outlet 1 and Outlet 2 at the same time will **not** operate simultaneously, even if corresponding switches are activated at the same time. See Choice-Making Activities below.

## Choice-Making Activities

In choice-making activities, any mode of control may be used. When one appliance has been activated, the other will not activate until the first one is turned off (Latch and Direct modes) or until the preset time has elapsed (Timed Seconds or Timed Minutes modes).

1. Plug one choice (an appliance) into Outlet 1 on the left side of the Power Select and plug the other choice (different appliance) into Outlet 2 on the right side of the Power Select.
2. Plug two switches into the switch jacks.



3. Plug the control unit into a grounded electrical outlet. (Use a grounding adapter if electrical supply mains are not grounded.)
4. Turn the ON/OFF switch on your appliance to the ON or PLAY position.
5. Select a mode of control.
6. Activate a switch and the corresponding choice/appliance will turn on.

## **Trouble Shooting**

If the equipment fails to operate after you have read the instructions, follow the suggestions listed below. If the problem persists, call APH Technical Support at 1-800-223-1839 (U.S.) or 1-502-895-2405.

1. Check all cord and jack connections to make sure that they are in place firmly.
  - Is the Power Select plugged into the wall outlet?
  - Is the appliance cord plugged into the Power Select?
  - Is the switch plugged into the Power Select?



2. Make sure that the ON/OFF switch on the appliance is turned ON. If the appliance has a pressure-sensitive switch, tape the switch in the ON position.
3. Check to see if the timer knob and the mode knob show the desired length of time and the type of control.
4. Plug the appliance into the wall outlet directly to be sure the outlet and the appliance are working.

If you've connected an appliance and it fails to turn on, try the following:

1. Press the reset button on the GFCI outlet being used.
2. Plug the appliance into the wall outlet, turn on the appliance, then, without turning it off, unplug it from the wall outlet. After 10 minutes, plug it in again. If the appliance comes on without anyone reactivating its ON/OFF switch, it will operate with the Power Select control unit.
3. Check the switch by plugging it into another system.
4. Check the Power Select by plugging it into an outlet and connecting a single switch and appliance (that you know are working) to the Power Select.

## **Safety**

1. Read the instructions for all appliances and devices before using them with the Power Select.
2. Use caution when placing any appliance near a user (especially appliances that have moving parts or that generate heat).
3. Keep the Power Select and all appliances away from water and moisture.
4. Do not open the Power Select to expose its interior.
5. To prevent injury, always unplug the appliance(s) before opening the lid to a blender, grinder, food processor, etc.
6. Keep the floor clear of cords to avoid trips and falls, and to prevent the Power Select or a connected appliance from being pulled to the floor. Position all cords near the wall away from children.

## **Storage and Care**

1. If cleaning is required, first disconnect the Power Select from the wall outlet. Next, disconnect the appliances and switches from the Power Select. Use a damp cloth to wipe the surface.

2. Never lift the Power Select by the electrical cord. When storing or packing for transport, use the original shipping box or wrap the control unit in protective padding.
3. Always unplug all switches when not in use; however, the Power Select may be left connected to a frequently used appliance for the user's convenience.

## **Warranty**

APH offers a one-year warranty on the Power Select. Visit [aph.org](http://aph.org) for more information.

## **Guarantee**

APH offers a 60-day, money-back guarantee if our products do not meet your needs or expectations. Products must be in new condition to honor this service. Please follow our exchange/return policy when sending products back under our guarantee. Visit [aph.org](http://aph.org) for more information.

## **Repair/Replacement Policy**

Call APH Customer Service for details.



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**Power Select 1-08612-00**