Safety Breakaway Switch
No. 1100-42

Installation Instructions

OBSOLETE
ECN-101861
10/3/2018

Warner Electric
An Altra Industrial Motion Company
Activated only in the event of a trailer breakaway emergency, the breakaway switch remotely activates the independent safety circuit of the trailer brake systems. Sonic welded case protects electrical component against water and sun.

Recommended for recreational and light commercial trailers. 12V. Up to four brake capacity. Not polarity sensitive, + or – ground.

Consists of:
1 – Breakaway Switch
1 – Mounting Accessory
1 – Installation Instruction

Cable & Pin Assembly
1100-253-002

⚠️ WARNING ⚠️ Failure to follow these instructions may result in product damage, equipment damage, and serious or fatal injury to personnel.
Installation Instructions for Warner Safety Breakaway Switch

15 Amp Current Rating with 2 or 4 Brakes
Part Number 1100-42

The purpose of the Safety Breakaway Switch is to minimize the possibility of an accident due to a “runaway” trailer. If a trailer becomes detached from the towing vehicle during transit, the switch pin is pulled out by the lanyard. This closes the circuit connecting the battery to the trailer brakes, providing electricity to stop the trailer.

1. Position the breakaway switch on the trailer frame with the pin pointing toward the towing vehicle. Allow sufficient lanyard length to attach the lanyard to the towing vehicle. The lanyard should be long enough to allow for turning corners, yet short enough to disengage the pin from the switch before the safety chains on the hitch become taut in a trailer disconnect situation.

2. Position the Warner Safety Breakaway Switch on any horizontal surface of the tongue so the lanyard cable and breakaway switch have no forward obstructions and can swivel freely. Drill a 9/32" hole for the attachment of the switch. Insert the metal sleeve furnished into the mounting hole in the switch and mount the switch on the tongue using the bolt, nut, and lockwasher provided. The sleeve will allow the switch to pivot freely, assuring alignment of the lanyard with the towing vehicle.

3. Mount a battery on the trailer frame. The battery must be the same voltage as the trailer brakes and have adequate capacity to meet legal requirements of the states in which the trailer will be towed.

   Note: An automotive-type storage battery is preferred as the power source.

4. Connect one lead from the switch to one of the battery terminals. Connect the other battery terminal to one of the trailer brake supply wires, matching the tow vehicle pularity. Connect the other lead from the switch to the remaining brake wire, leaving enough slack for the switch to swivel (see illustration). Make sure all terminals and connections are secure and well insulated.

5. Fasten the lanyard to a convenient structural member of the towing vehicle. Do not fasten it to the hitch assembly. A snap hook and eyebolt can be added to facilitate hookup and removal of the lanyard.

⚠️ CAUTION ⚠️ The system should be tested periodically by pulling the pin and trying to pull the trailer with the towing vehicle. The trailer brakes should be engaged. After testing, return the pin to the “full-in” position. Avoid prolonged or frequent activation of the safety switch, since the battery is discharged whenever the switch is actuated. Check the battery periodically with a hydrometer or other suitable battery tester to assure that full charge is maintained in accordance with the battery manufacturer’s recommendations.
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