SCOUT Projects: *Bosun's Locker Automatic Light Switch*

m/v SCOUT (Great Harbour N37)   *Ray Henry*

Description

Add a hatch switch to bosun's locker to have light come on and turn off automatically.

Parts Ordered

1. Lever switch with roller and capable of Normally Closed (NC) operation

    URBESTAC 250V 5A SPDT 1NO 1NC Momentary Hinge Roller Lever Micro Switches
    10 Pcs
    Sold by: iauto
    Return eligible through Oct 31, 2018
    $6.99

    Buy it again

2. Various wire, solder, crimp terminals

Design

The switch to operate the light in the bosun's locker on our N37 was located way back at the forward bulkhead as one made their way up the steps. Not on the side panel, where it would make sense for actual use, but back on the wall, requiring you to reach around and back behind the side panel. This was particularly frustrating if you were halfway up the steps and had forgotten to turn the light off.
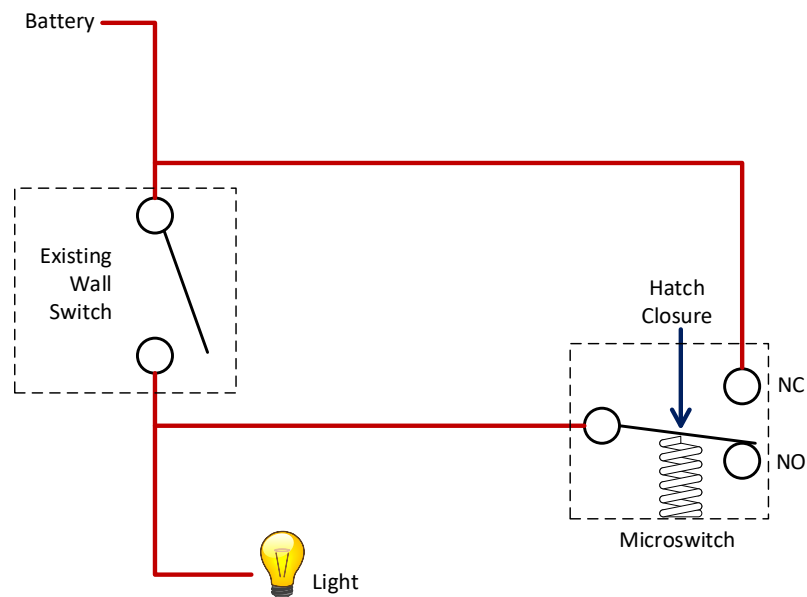
Assembly

In lieu of cutting an opening in the fiberglass side panel and re-mounting the switch, I though, "why not make it automatic"? It is not likely that you'd want the hatch closed and the light to stay on, right?

I mounted a small micro-switch whose roller would just be activated by the hatch bottom. I put the switch in what I though would be the least obtrusive (and prone to getting knocked off) location at the back corner of the opening. There was a Panduit wire chase that led right back to the switch next to the location.

I left the wall switch there, and just wired the Normally Closed (NC) contacts [light turns OFF as switch is pressed by hatch] of the microswitch to those terminals. The microswitch would override the OFF position of the wall switch, but turning on the wall switch would force the light to be always on.

Completion

This works great. Amazing how a simple thing can make your life easier! I am up and down these steps 10-15 times a day with the current projects going on!

Do-Overs and Comments

I do need to come up with a cover of some sort to make the switch not look so "steam-punk", but it will do for now…….