



COMPONENT NEWS

PREPRODUCTION ENGINEERING

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COMPILED BY PRODUCT RELIABILITY INFORMATION

NO. 89

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LUBRICATION FOR ROTARY SWITCHES

Some confusion still exists as to what lubricants should be used on rotary switches and where to use them. The following guide should be followed whenever in doubt.

1. All detent systems on rotary switches should be greased with *BEACON 325*, sparingly.
2. All bushings should be lubricated with *WD-40*.
3. All rotor and stator contacts and blades should be lubricated with *CRAMOLIN SPECIAL*, which is blue in color, or *NEW IMPROVED NO-NOISE*, which is pink in color.

Under no condition should *CRAMOLIN*, which is red in color, be used on contacts due to its gum forming tendencies with elevated temperature.

Of interest, is that a number of switches were subjected to humidity and sulfide tests several years ago, with some having no lubricant, some with *NEW IMPROVED NO-NOISE* and some with *CRAMOLIN SPECIAL*. All switches had coin silver stators with silver alloy clips. Further evaluation of these switches within the past month has demonstrated the lubricants' effectiveness, in that the nonlubricated switch resistances were on the order of 30 ohms while the lubricated switches were still in the 10 to 20 millohm area.

If further information on these lubricants is desired contact Bob Frum, Gary Virgin or Clint Berry, PE/CE & S.

-Clint Berry