

# Electrical Switch Function Definitions

## Pole:

Describes the number of circuits that the switch will activate simultaneously.

**Single Pole:** 1 circuit (will have spade connectors on one side of the back of switch).

**Double Pole:** 2 circuits (will have spade connectors on both sides of the back of switch).

## Throw:

Describes the number of positions on the switch that activate circuits.

**Single Throw:** 1 position when switched from the "off" position.

**Double Throw:** 2 positions when switched from the "off" position (center position is off).

## Momentary / Sustained Contact:

Circuits such as lighting and windshield wipers require continuous current for continuous operation, and require switches with **Sustained Contacts**. When the actuator in this type of switch is at the "on" position, it will stay until moved to the "off" position

Circuits for a horn or engine trim require current only when the switch is held to complete the circuit, and require switches with **Momentary Contacts**. When your finger is removed from the switch, spring action in the switch will move the actuator back to the off position.

## Examples:

**SPST Mom.**      **Contact, ON/OFF Single Pole, Single Throw, Momentary Contact**

May be used for a horn.

**DPDT Sust.**      **Contact, ON/OFF/ON Double Pole, Double Throw, Sustained Contact**

May be used for Navigation lights with more than one circuit, if you desire the option to use the anchor light with navigation lights or separately.