

POWER CONTROLLER UPDATE

I'd like to thank William E. Baker who wrote a letter about my "Power Controller" article (**Electronics Now**, November 1992) that appeared in the June "Letters" column. I always enjoy getting feedback on projects.

As Mr. Baker suggested, the Power Controller contains more components than are needed for a load, such as extra lights. The purpose of the controller, however, is to provide more versatility than can be realized from a simple relay circuit. The power controller provides: 1) pulse sensing for wireless, wired, or remote oscillator control; and 2) automatic reset when the vehicle is shut down. The automatic reset works well with the other devices in a computer-controlled car and provides a nice "feel" to the dashboard controls.

Furthermore, the addition of the electronics for pulse control represents a small percentage of the effort needed to assemble the hardware and build a suitable unit.

The circuit suggested in Mr. Baker's letter would certainly work. As a matter of fact, it is similar to the one I initially built to control the lights in my old Chevy van. However, I would connect the indicator lamp with resistor across the load. That way, the lamp will positively indicate that power is applied to the load, not simply that power is applied to the relay.

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