

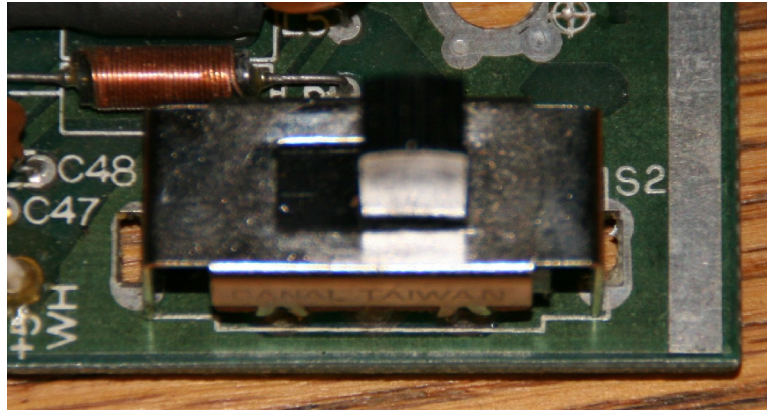
Power Switch Cleaning for ColecoVision

Perform this repair if you're getting inconsistent garbage on the screen upon start-up, or other strange, unrepeatable behaviour.

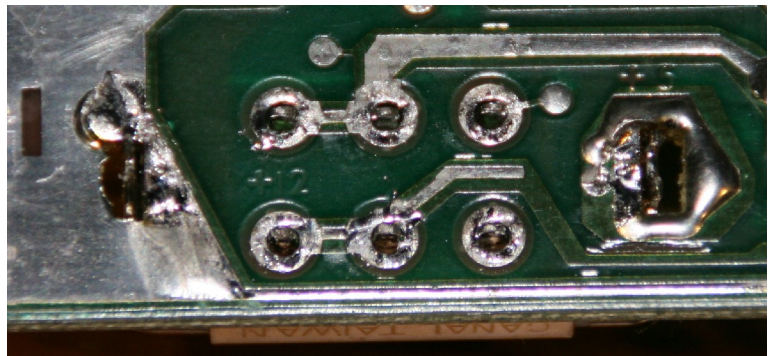
To perform this repair, you'll need a pair of pliers, jeweller's screwdriver set, contact cleaner such as DeOxit (by Caig Industries), and dielectric grease (available from most hardware or automotive stores).

You will also need to know how to desolder. Fortunately, the switch is fairly easy to desolder.

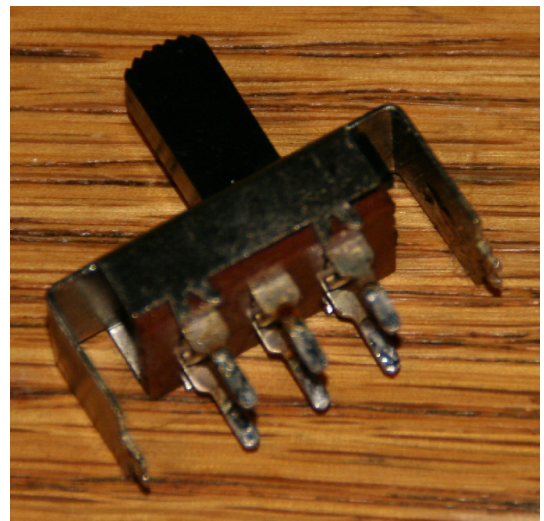
Locate the switch.



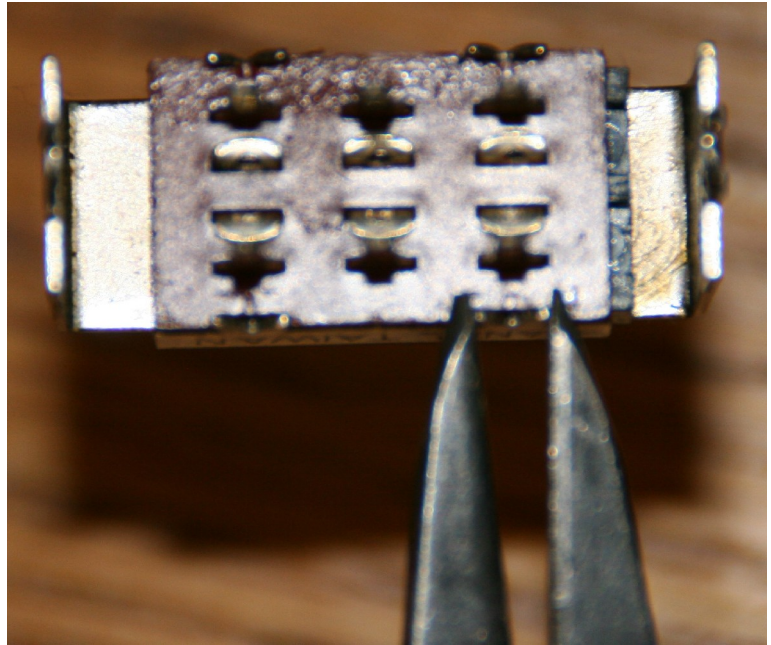
Desolder the switch, including the two tabs, shown on the left and right.



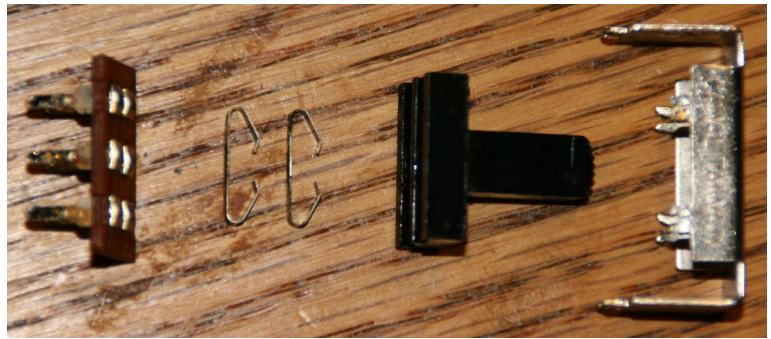
Here's the removed switch.



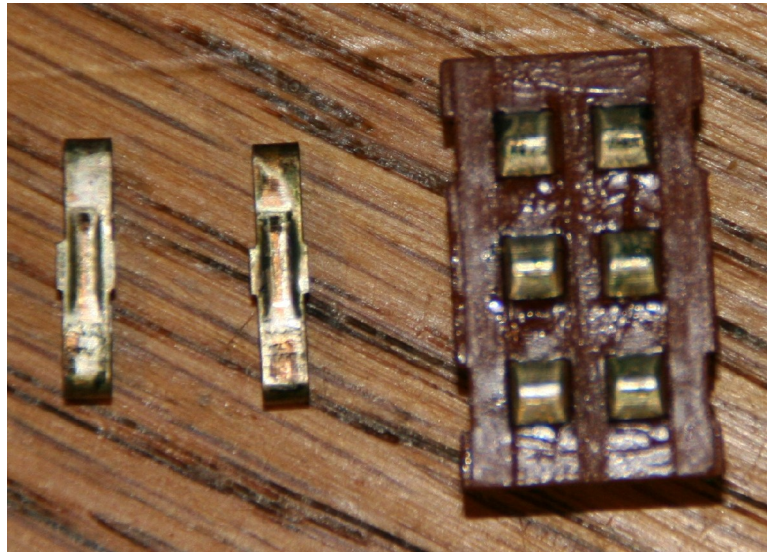
With a pair of pliers, carefully crimp each of the four sets of fingers, so the outsides are straight, and the switch will come apart.



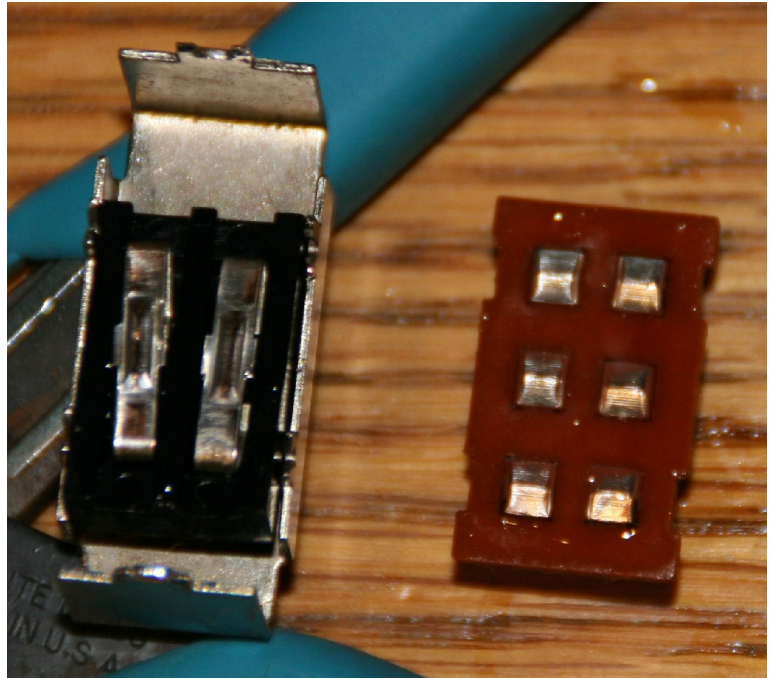
Here's an exploded view of the parts of the switch. Also refer to this when re-assembling the switch.



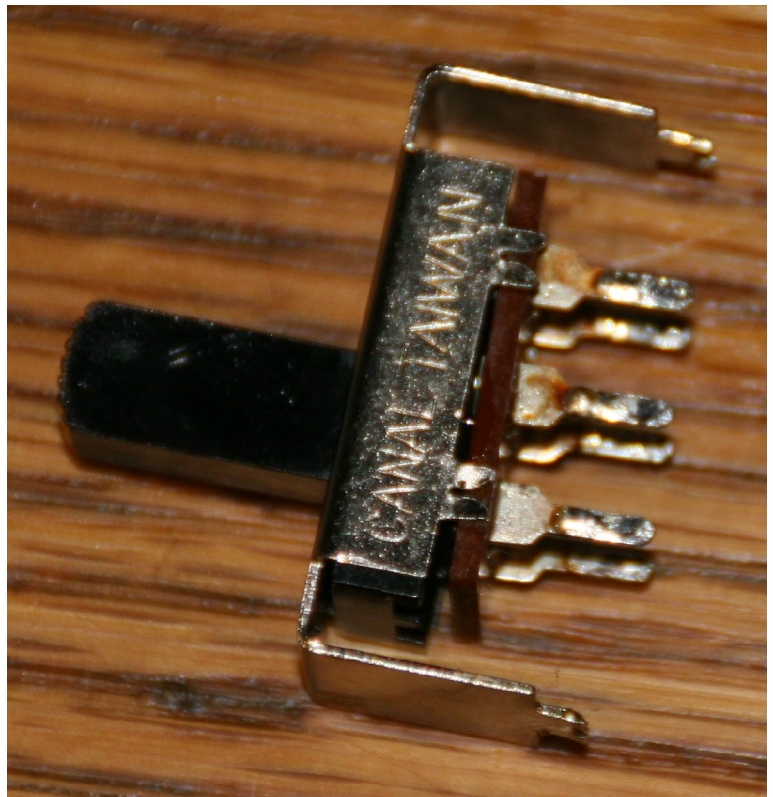
Here's the contacts that need to be cleaned. Wipe each part to remove any dirt. You can see that the two sliding parts shown here have the outer coating worn off, revealing the copper underneath. This is not ideal, but should be fine. Gently burnish each part. I don't like to remove any or much surface material, so I usually use a soft white eraser. If it doesn't get shiny with that, I'll gently use a pink eraser. Don't use a typical blue or grey eraser that has coarser grit. Use contact cleaner such as DeOxit on all the contacting surfaces. Follow the instructions as best as possible.



Apply a liberal amount of dielectric grease on all the contacting surfaces. The picture doesn't show it very well, but there is quite a bit there.



Put the switch back together. Notice that the bottom piece is loose.



Find a jeweller's screwdriver that just fits between the fingers. Push the switch together, and pry each finger out, so that the switch doesn't come apart.

Solder the switch back in place, and put everything back together again.

