

QUASAR CODE # 3126 - SOUND ACTIVATED RELAY SWITCH



General Guidelines for Electronic Kits and Assembled Modules

Thank you for choosing one of our products. Please take some time to carefully read the important information below concerning use of this product. The assembly and operating instructions are on the following pages. Help with component identification can be found on our website at www.quasarelectronics.co.uk/componentid.htm. If you are unsure about any aspect of the assembly or use of this product please contact our Support Team before proceeding.



WEEE Directive (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

Notice To All European Union Citizens. Important environmental information about this product.

The crossed out wheeled bin symbol on this product, package or documentation indicates that disposal of this product after its lifecycle could harm the environment. Do not dispose of this product (or batteries if used) as unsorted municipal waste. It should be disposed by a specialized company for recycling.

The unit should be returned to your distributor or to a local recycling service. Please respect the local environmental rules. If in doubt contact your local authorities about

waste disposal rules.

Safety: General rules concerning safe use of our Kits or Modules.

To ensure your safety, please observe these safety measures. In no way are these complete. As safety requirements vary, please check with your local authorities, in order to comply with local requirements. If in doubt, seek the help of a qualified person.

Battery or wall-adaptor operated devices are safe devices. They do not require special attention unless mains voltage is connected to an output e.g. a relay.



To ensure electrical safety, and also protection from fire or personal injury, make sure your mains operated equipment complies with these safety hints:

- Use a suitable plastic enclosure. If a metal enclosure is used, make sure it is properly earthed.
- Use a power switch if the device consumes more than 10W. Use a double pole switch for mains operated, transformer-less kits.
- Mount a fuse in series with the mains switch. Use a slow blow (T) 50mA fuse for transformers up to 10W and a 100mA fuse for transformers up to 20W.
- Use a mains input connector, or a robust power cord with a clamp.
- Internal wiring carrying mains voltages must have a minimum cross-sectional area of 0.5mm².

If supplied, attach the power rating label near the power cord of the device and fill-out the mains voltage, frequency, power consumption and fuse values.

Troubleshooting and Support

90% of non working kits are due to poor soldering.

We operate a Get-You-Going service for non-working kits but there is a charge based on the time and components needed to complete the repair. Quite often it is not economically viable for us to repair and it is cheaper to supply a new ready made product at full cost.

Disclaimer

Quasar Electronics reserves the right to change product specifications or to discontinue products without notice. Quasar Electronics cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage, direct or indirect, which might occur from the use of a product. Quasar Electronics Kits or Modules are intended for educational and demonstration purposes only. They are not intended for use in commercial applications. If they are used in such applications the purchaser assumes all responsibility for ensuring compliance with all local laws. In addition, they are not suitable for use as or as a part of life support systems, or systems that might create a hazardous situation of any kind.

QUASAR CODE # 3126 - SOUND ACTIVATED RELAY SWITCH

The Sound Activated Relay Switch is based on a circuit published in Silicon Chip magazine, 9/1994, p31. The idea behind a VOX SWITCH is that instead of the user pressing a switch to activate a relay, the sound of the users voice itself activates the relay. This gives hands-free control over devices like tape recorders.

We have improved the original design by adding an on-board potentiometer so you can adjust the trigger sensitivity. The 3126v41 board also features:

1. Screw terminal blocks for all input and output connections
2. The output is rated to switch up to 120Vac or 24Vdc @ 1 Amp maximum current. The relay itself may be rated to switch higher loads but the PCB tracks limit the amount of current and voltage that can be safely switched. The output should NOT be used to switch mains electricity directly but can instead be used to switch a higher capacity off-board relay or switch. The Common (C), Normally Connected (NC), and Normally Open (NO) connections are taken to a 3-pole terminal block on the right hand edge of the board. For more information please see our relay FAQ sheet at www.quasarelectronics.co.uk/pdf/relay-faq.pdf
3. MIC pin spacing increased to make the MIC body stand off the board. This helps to reduce a feedback loop that causes the relay to not turn off (see Note 4 below)
4. "EXT MIC" terminal block input added. This allows you to mount the supplied microphone (MIC) away from the board for convenience or if you are experiencing feedback that causes the relay to continuously reactivate or not turn off. Attach using screened cable no more than 1 metre long. . If you purchased the pre-assembled version you will need to carefully unsolder the MIC from the board first. NOTE: Only use an electret type MIC as supplied

ASSEMBLY

Check of the components against the Listing. Follow the overlay for component positions and orientation. Mount the MIC about 3mm above board. Note that **if the relay is triggering continuously then it may be**

necessary to located the mic some distance away from the board (like 0.5-1 metre) using 2-core screened cable (not supplied). This problem is caused by vibration from the relay itself retriggering the circuit.

Also note that C4 is located under the IC so the IC socket has to be used. Make sure to get C3 (104) and C4 (101) in their correct places. If you mix the 101 with the 104 the kit will not work. Ensure diodes, electrolytic capacitors, MIC, Q1 and IC1 are inserted with correct orientation.

COMPONENTS

Resistors 5%, 1/4W:		
R1, R7	1K brown black red	2
R3	2K2 red red red	1
R2, R4, R8	10K brown black orange	3
R9	39K orange white orange	1
R5	1M brown black green	1
R6	200K (204) Koa potentiometer	1
Capacitors		
C4	100pF (101) monoblock	1
C3	0.1uF (104) monoblock	1
C2, C5	2u2 mini electrolytic cap	2
C1	10u mini electrolytic cap	1
Semiconductors		
D1, D4	1N4004	2
D2, D3	1N4148	2
Q1	BC548	1
IC1	LM358	1
Miscellaneous		
	8 pin IC socket	1
RL1	Relay AZ-SH-112L (or equivalent)	1
X1, X2	2 pole terminal block	2
X3	3 pole terminal block	1
L1	3mm LED	1
MIC	Electret microphone	1
PCB #	3126v41	1

OPERATION

Audio is picked up by the microphone and fed to the opamp IC1a. This is connected as a non-inverting amplifier with a gain of 151 or +43.6dB. The 100pF capacitor across the 150K feedback resistor rolls off the high frequency response above 10kHz to eliminate RF. The output at pin 1 feeds two diodes, D2 and D3

QUASAR CODE # 3126 - SOUND ACTIVATED RELAY SWITCH

which function as a half-wave voltage doubler. These rectify the audio signal to produce a DC voltage across the 2.2uF ecap, C2 which is directly proportional to the input audio sound level.

This DC voltage is fed to pin 5 the second opamp IC1b. This is connected as a comparator. A resistive voltage divider applies about 2V to pin 6. Once the DC voltage across the 2.2u eCap rises above the voltage at pin 6, pin 7 pulls high. This turns on transistor Q1 which activates the relay and the LED turns on. Q1 remains on while the DC voltage at pin 5 is above that at pin 6. Because of the high opamp gain of IC1a, and with the voltage doubler gain the circuit has a fast response time. However, the release time takes about 3 seconds determined by the time constant of C2, R5 (the 1M resistor) and the pin 6 threshold voltage. D1 across the relay coil protects Q1 from back-emf when the relay turns off.

Power the board using a 9-12Vdc battery or for extended periods a mains adaptor like our [660.446UK](http://www.quasarelectronics.co.uk/660.446UK). D4 acts as protection for the circuit in case power is connected the wrong way. Current drain when off is 5-7mA. It is

about 35mA when activated. Sensitivity may be varied with the 200K Koa potentiometer. A good working VOX level is about R6+R9 of 150K. But if you want more sensitivity then you can reduce R9 to 22K or less and turn the trimpot R6 to maximum sensitivity (fully clockwise).

Connect the microphone using 2-core screened cable up to 1 metre away from the board. Connect using the EXT MIC terminal block taking care to observe the MIC polarity (M-pin goes to the case).

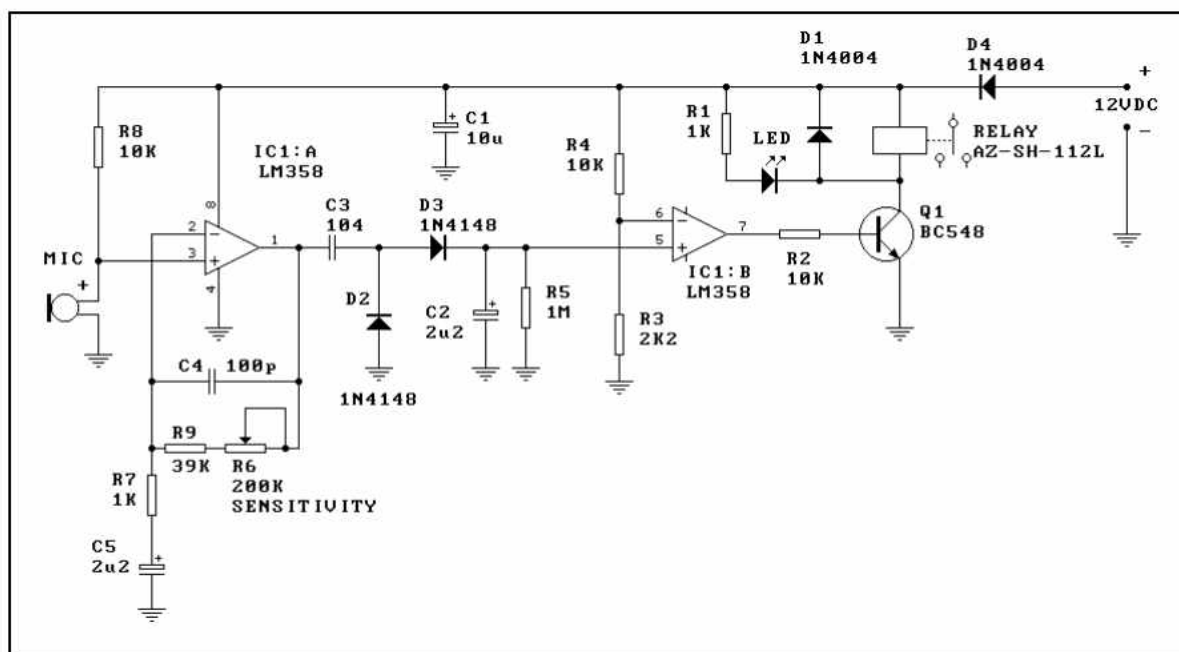
The OFF delay time may be adjusted by varying R3 and R4. Reducing R3 will result in a longer release time.

You could change the ON duration (governed by C2 & R5) to say 30 seconds and use the VOX as a light switch with this delay time before turning off. Increase C2 to say 10u and R5 to 3M3.

support@quasarelectronics.co.uk if you have any questions.

See our full kit and module range at www.quasarelectronics.co.uk.

SCHEMATIC



QUASAR CODE # 3126 - SOUND ACTIVATED RELAY SWITCH

Warning! Risk of Electric Shock!

This information concerns kits and modules with relay outputs. TO USE THE RELAY OUTPUTS SAFELY YOU MUST OBSERVE THE MAXIMUM VOLTAGE AND CURRENT LIMITS QUOTED IN THE **PRODUCT DOCUMENTATION** (this is because the board design may not be rated to switch the maximum voltage and current limits printed on the relay itself or specified in the relay manufacturer's data sheet).

Controlling mains equipment with relay outputs must be treated with extreme caution. Electric shocks can cause severe and permanent injury or even death. Construction, installation, testing and commissioning should only be attempted by suitably qualified persons, or under the supervision of a suitably qualified person. These products are not suitable for children. Before connecting mains powered equipment to the relay outputs please check with the relevant authorities in order to ensure compliance with all current safety regulations.

Many areas of the assembly may operate at mains voltage. A suitable isolating enclosure must be used. Exposed screw terminal blocks on some products must be insulated to prevent contact with exposed metallic parts at mains potential. Connected equipment should be suitably fused.



You will find relay outputs on many of the kits and modules that we sell. A relay is an electrically operated on/off switch. The voltage and current limits specified in the product documentation generally relate to resistive or light inductive loads.

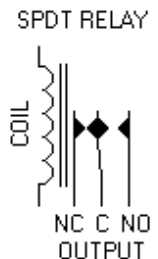
Relay Terminals

Most boards have SPDT (Single Pole Double Throw) style relays. These have three outputs:

C = Common

NO = Normally-Open contacts connect the circuit when the relay is activated; the circuit is disconnected when the relay is inactive. It is also called a Form A contact or "make" contact.

NC = Normally-Closed contacts disconnect the circuit when the relay is activated; the circuit is connected when the relay is inactive. It is also called a Form B contact or "break" contact.



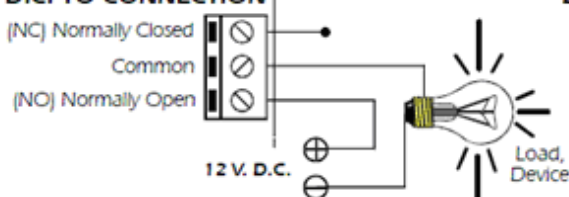
Connecting the Device you want to Control

You must provide an external power source to the device you want to control. No voltage is present at the relay terminals (remember it is just a switch). The relay is normally connected in *series* with the positive (+) power wire of the device you want to control.

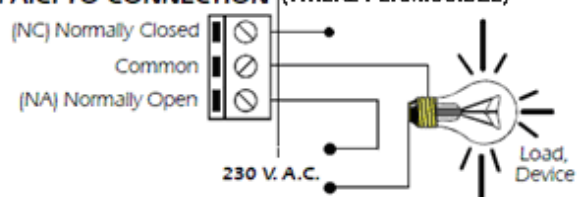
In this case, the positive wire from the power source should be connected to Common. Then either the NO or NC terminal (as appropriate for your purpose) is connected to the positive (+) wire going to the device you want to control. The negative (-) wire does not connect to the relay at all. It goes directly from the power source negative output to the device negative (-) terminal.

Typical SPDT Relay Connection Diagrams

12 V. D.C. TO CONNECTION



230 V. A.C. TO CONNECTION (WHERE PERMISSIBLE)



Anti-Spark SPDT Relay Connection Diagram

Sometimes the connected equipment can cause arcing across the relay contacts. This must be corrected by installing a resistor and capacitor (not supplied) between the two contacts of the relay as shown below. Component values are for 230Vac mains.

