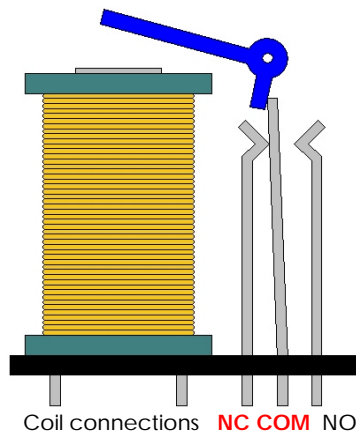


ELECTRICAL RELAY

A relay is basically an electrically operated switch – it is like a normal SPST or SPDT switch, but instead of push a button, or flicking a switch, a coil is energised to activate the switch.

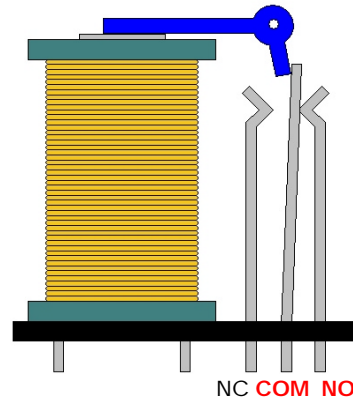
RELAY at rest

When the relay is not energized, the COMMON and NC are connected.

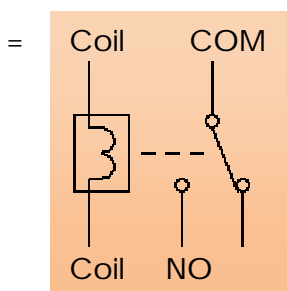


RELAY when energised

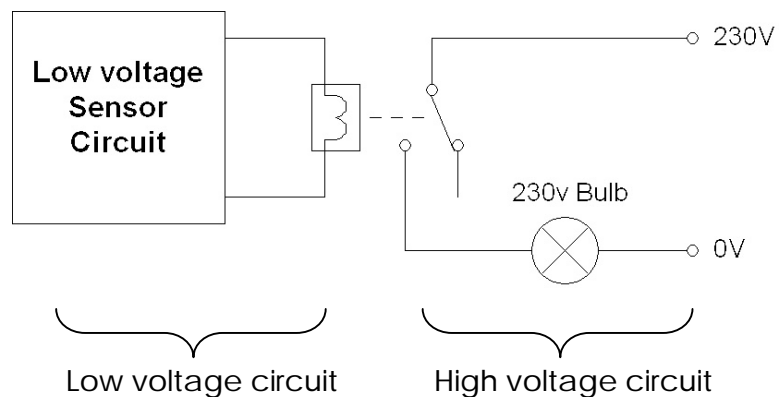
When the relay is energized, the contacts changeover so that COMMON and NO are connected.



The circuit diagram for a relay makes it easy to see each connection.



The main use for a relay is to INTERFACE between two different voltage circuits – for example a 12v sensor circuit can drive the relay coil, and the contacts can operate a mains 220v a.c. bulb



An example of this circuit is shown right. It is a night light, that will turn on a light when darkness falls. Note the sensor forms part of a potential divider, which is connected to the transistor that drives the relay. The contacts then activate the high voltage circuit.

