Towards a Better Breaker



n • <u>b)</u> # - 12 - 18 TT IL HE = 12 N. 1 faile at #12 14 Fi I. I. HE alt 11 al 1, 11 11 ----all 54 Mail 1. 1: H 1. 1. 1. Had at 1, 1, 11 1. I. II. 11 11 17 11 1- 11 12 11 12

When breakers are mounted in both directions, which direction is a tripped breaker supposed to be switched?

What does **ON** and **OFF** mean in the context of circuit breakers?

How can you see important labels and switch orientations in low light?

Inconsistencies and poor feedback

mean that the user mistakes result in the wrong circuit getting switched off, interrupting power to appliances.



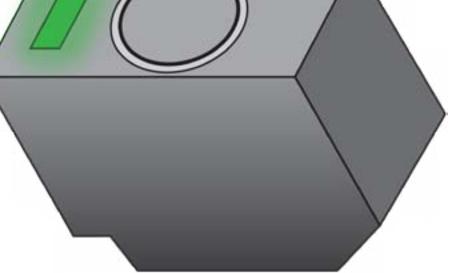
An Easy Fix

Tripped breakers raise a button instead of throwing a switch.

A diffusion ring around the button glows red, focusing the users' attention.

When the **button is pushed** it catches, and stays in a recessed state unless tripped again.

Rows of green light indicate all is normal, while red rings will indicated failures even in low light.



Buttons have very clear **ON** and **OFF** states where switches are relative to their labeling and function, making the button a superior control for circuit breakers.

Mark Shuster | Basic Interaction Design | Spring 2011