University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

1971

EC71-2009 Lady Fair does Electric Repair : Using a Test Light

Norm Teter

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist

Teter, Norm, "EC71-2009 Lady Fair does Electric Repair : Using a Test Light" (1971). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 4142.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/4142

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AGRI
9
85
E7
#71-2009

EC 71-2009

Lady Fair

DOES ELECTRICAL REPAIR

USING A TEST LIGHT

Extension Service
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture
Cooperating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture
and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

USING A TEST LIGHT

By Norm Teter
Extension Agricultural Engineer

Suppose a table lamp doesn't light. You've checked to see that it is plugged in and the bulb is good. Somewhere in the house wiring or in the lamp the electric current has stopped and isn't reaching the bulb. An inexpensive test light, available in hardware stores, will locate the trouble.

A test light is two short wires attached to a small bulb. The insulation around the wires may be different colors, but this need not concern you. The metal points on the wires—called terminals—work like the prongs of a plug. Here is how you would use it to find where electric current has been interrupted.

1. Test the wall outlet to see if electricity is coming that far (Fig. 1). Put the terminals of the test light into the outlet. If it lights, power is coming into the wall outlet and the trouble is in the lamp.

Figure 1

2. Test the lamp switch and socket. Plug the lamp in and remove the bulb. Put one of the test light terminals in the middle bottom of the socket and the other against the inside (Fig. 2). Turn the lamp on with the switch. If the test light does not glow, power is not reaching the socket and you will need to replace the socket and switch.

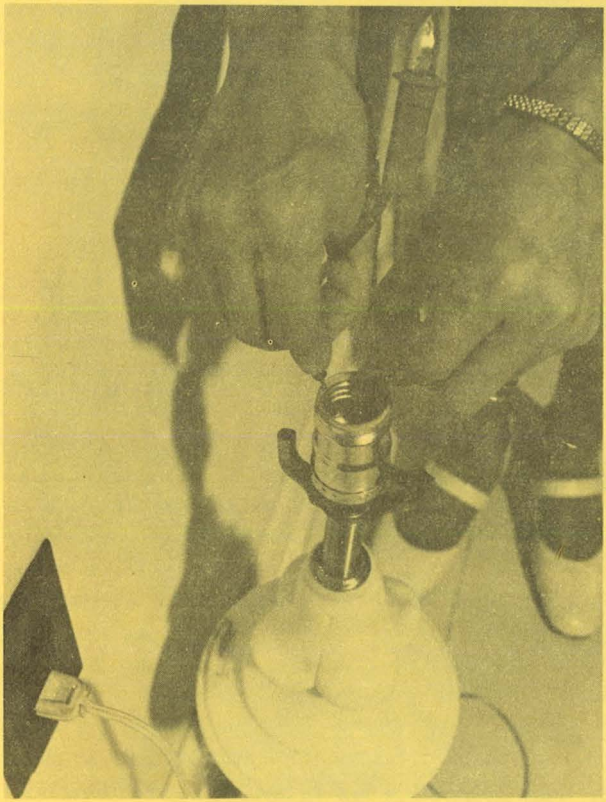

Figure 2

Suppose when testing the wall outlet (Fig. 1) you discover that power is not coming to the outlet.

1. Test the fuse box to see if it is carrying electricity to the outlet. Remove the fuse which controls the outlet in question. Place one terminal of the test light on the center screw of the fuse receptacle. Place the other terminal on the inside ridges (Fig. 3). If the test light glows, power is going to the fuse and you probably need a new fuse.

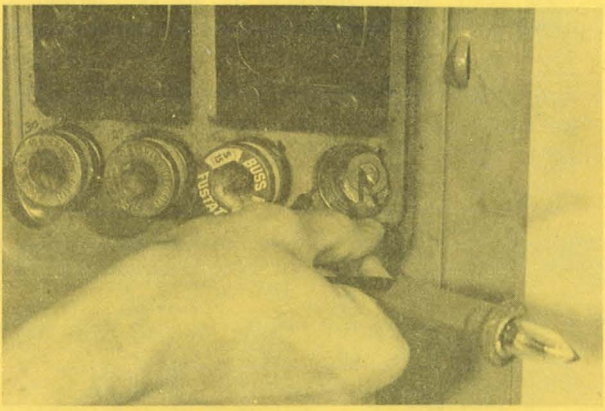

Figure 3

2. If power is not going to the fuse, test to see if electricity is coming into the house. Unscrew the cover of the fuse box. Remove the cover and you will see two insulated (wrapped) power wires and one bare ground wire. CAUTION: DO NOT TOUCH THESE WIRES OR SCREWS WITH YOUR HANDS. IT IS SAFE ONLY TO USE AN INSULATED TEST LIGHT.

3. Put one terminal of the test light on the screw at the end of an insulated wire and the other terminal on the screw at the end of the ground wire (Fig. 4). If the test light glows, power is coming into the house through that power wire. Then try a terminal on the screw at the end of the other power wire, keeping one terminal always on the screw at the end of the ground wire. If the test light glows, electricity is coming through this wire, too. If power is not coming through one or both of these wires, call the electric power company to restore service.

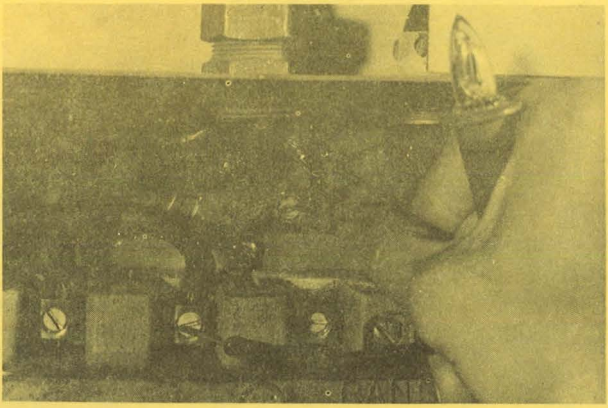

Figure 4