

How to Rewire a Lamp

By See Jane Drill™

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Objective

The learner will be able to safely rewire/repair a table lamp, replacing the cord, socket and switch, following these instructions and the accompanying video at seejanedrill.com.

Electrical Safety Precautions

The power of electricity should be respected. Electricians take basic safety precautions when working with electricity, and so should every do-it-yourselfer, to keep yourself and your family safe.

Before proceeding with the job, DISCONNECT the lamp from the power source by unplugging the lamp from the wall outlet

Resources Needed to Complete Job

- **Tools & Equipment**
 - Needle-nose Pliers
 - Wire stripping tool
 - Phillips and flathead screwdriver
 - Multi-purpose tool or utility knife
 - New socket, and new cord, with the plug attached.
- **General Supplies**
 - Electrical tape

Steps to Complete Job

Remove Existing Cord and Socket

1. **The very first step is to take the appropriate safety precautions. If you have not already done so, review and observe the safety precautions listed in detail on page 1.**
2. Turn the lamp over to expose the base. If you need to, remove any covering (usually a piece of cardboard covered in felt).
3. With the cutter on your wire-stripping tool, **cut the cord.**
4. With your screwdriver, **loosen the screw at the base of the socket.**
5. **Unscrew the socket by hand.** Because you have cut the cord at the bottom of the lamp, you will be able to pull the socket right off.
6. Next, remove the socket shell from the socket, by sliding off the shell.
7. **Safety note:** You will notice that there is a piece of cardboard inside the shell. **DO NOT** remove the cardboard, as it provides needed insulation, protecting the metal shell from the electrical terminals on the socket.

Install New Socket and Cord

1. **Look at the new cord.** Make sure that you have enough bare wire to work with at the ends. You may need to separate the two wires a bit. If you

need to, you can very carefully separate the two wires with your utility knife, being extremely careful to not nick the wire. You may also need to strip the sheathing, if your wire didn't come pre-stripped, which you can do with your wire stripping tool.

2. **Fish the wire through the base of lamp**, up the conduit and through the top.
3. **Feed the wire through the base cap of the socket.**
4. Next, **tie the two ends of the wire at the top of the lamp into an underwriter's knot.**
5. **Identify which of the two wires is hot, and which is neutral.** Hot wire attaches to brass, and neutral wire to silver. To identify which one is the hot wire and which one is the neutral wire, you will notice that the tip of each wire is colored; one is black, and one silver. The black wire is the hot wire, to be attached to the brass terminal, and the neutral wire is the silver, to be attached to the silver terminal. If, by chance, your wire isn't colored on the tips, you will need to identify which wire is hot and which wire is neutral by the sheathing. Run your finger along the sheathing. The hot wire will have a smooth sheathing. The neutral wire will have a ridged sheathing.
6. **Attach the wires to the corresponding terminals.** Put a hook into each wire, and attach to the corresponding screw on the socket. Make sure that you are hooking on to the terminal in a clockwise direction. Tighten with a screwdriver so that there is a secure connection.
7. **Reattach the socket shell.** Slide it right over the socket. Again, be certain that your cardboard insulation is intact.
8. **Attach the socket shell to the base.** Pull the wire taut so that it seats well.
9. **Put in a new light bulb, and test your newly rewired lamp!**

And that is it. You did it!

For further information about the task described in this worksheet and the tools and materials needed to complete this job, refer to www.seejanedrill.com

Note: It is the intention of See Jane Drill to educate and empower people to perform their own home repairs. However, if, after viewing the video and reading the safety precautions and instructions, you still feel uncomfortable with performing an electrical job, you may want to call an electrician. Safety is the number one priority.

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See Jane Drill is dedicated to providing accurate and helpful do-it-yourself information. We welcome your questions, input and feedback about the information provided on this website.