

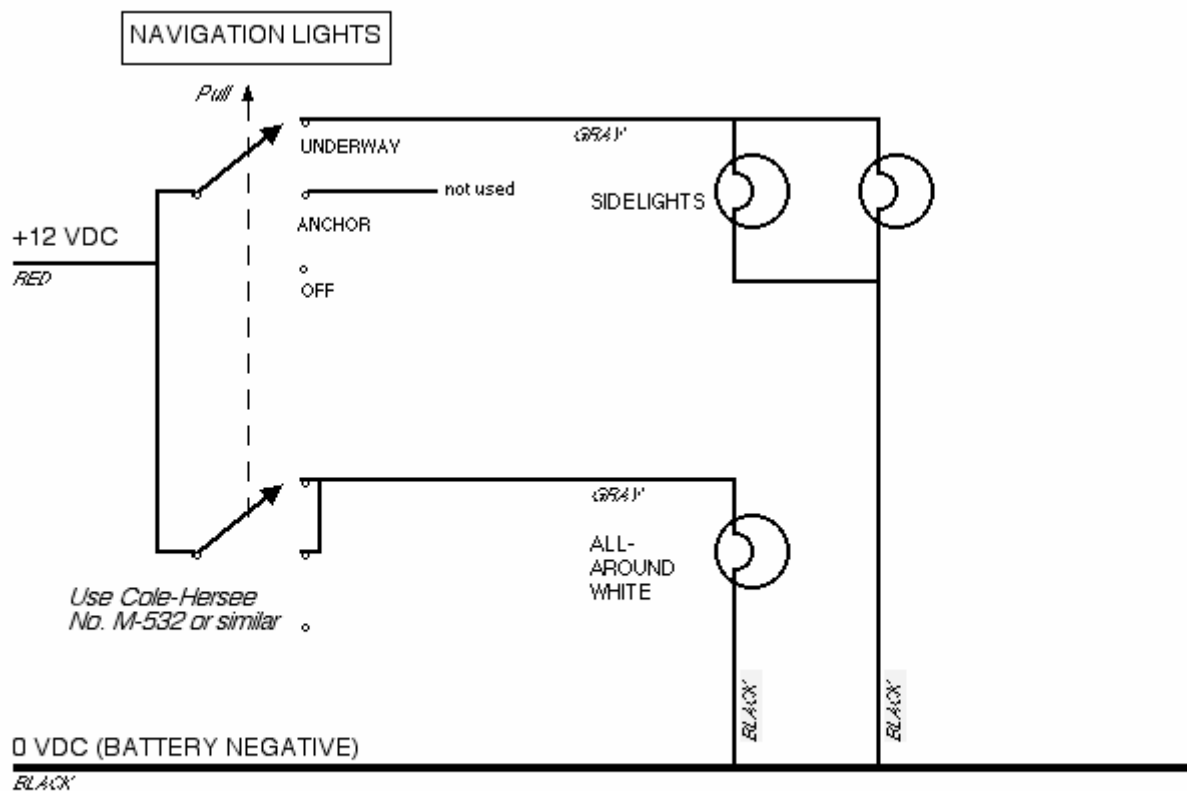
Navigation Lamp Wiring

by James W. Hebert

Control of a vessel's navigation lights is often accomplished by a single switch with multiple positions. On small boats there generally are only three positions: OFF, ANCHOR, and UNDERWAY. Electrical schematic diagrams are presented to show the usual wiring for control of the lamps which will produce the proper display of navigation lighting.

Sidelights and All-around White

Control of the NAVIGATION LIGHTS on most boats using sidelights and an all-around white lighting scheme is typically accomplished with a single switch, usually a marine-grade three-position push-pull switch. The positions are OFF (pushed in all the way), ANCHOR (pulled out to first stop), or UNDERWAY (pulled out all the way). The electrical arrangement is very simple. The ALL-AROUND WHITE light is shown in both ON positions; the SIDELIGHTS are shown only in the second ON position. On smaller boats the SIDELIGHTS are often combined into a single lamp and carried on the bow instead of two separate lamps as shown.

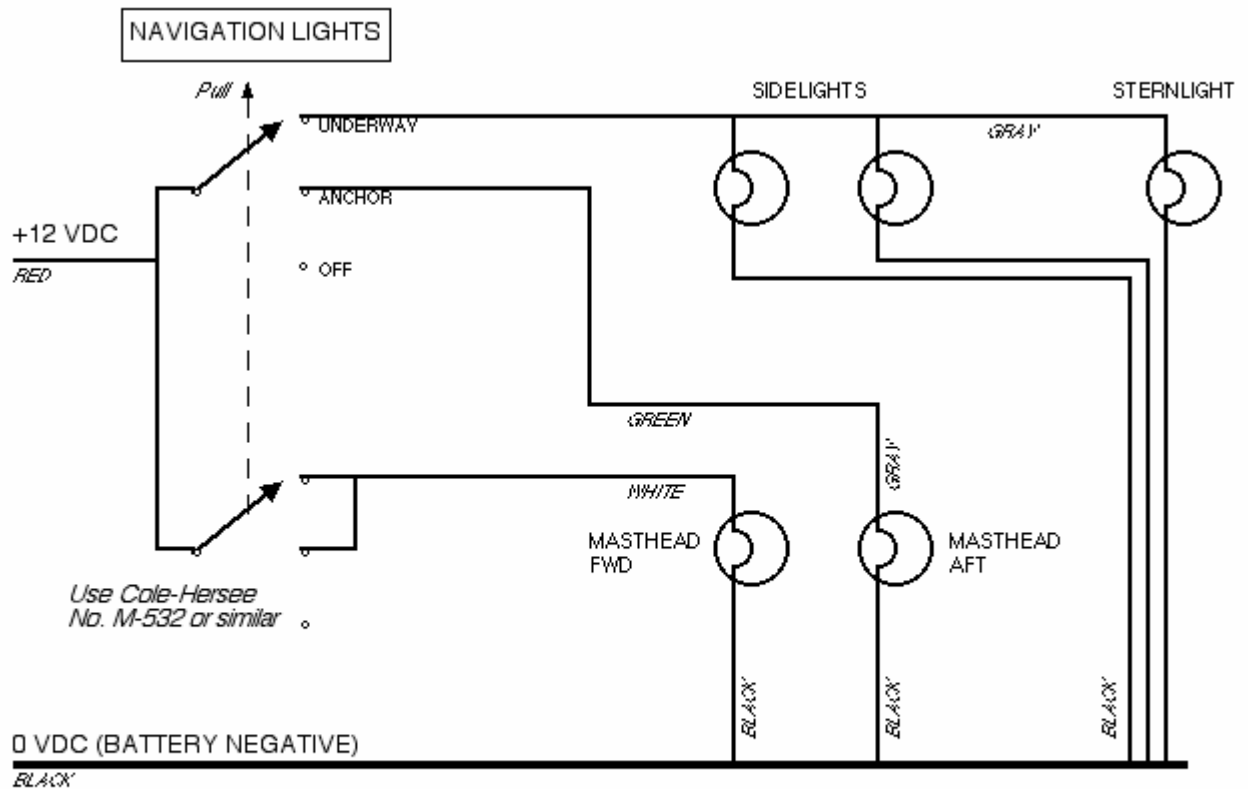


NAVIGATION LIGHT WIRING
Sidelights and All-around White
Typical of many boats

Drawn by JIM HEBERT
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Sidelights, Masthead Light, Stern Light, Anchor Light

Some BOSTON WHALER boat with a center console employ a more complex scheme for their NAVIGATION LIGHTS using a dual-bulb masthead lamp, separate sidelights, and a sternlight. These are also often controlled with a single switch, again a marine-grade three-position pull-push switch. The positions are OFF (pushed in all the way), ANCHOR (pulled out to first stop), or UNDERWAY (pulled out all the way). The dual-bulb lamp fixture which is normally located at the center console serves a dual purpose as both a MASTHEAD LIGHT when underway (only forward-facing segment is illuminated) and as an ANCHOR LIGHT when at anchor (both forward-facing and stern-facing segments illuminated). The SIDELIGHTS and STERNLIGHT are only illuminated when underway.



NAVIGATION LIGHT WIRING
Dual Masthead Lamp
Typical of BOSTON WHALER boats

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Cole-Hersee Switch

A COLE-HERSEE switch (Model M-532) is used to control the nav lights.

