



Stewart Electronics

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AUTOMATED and NON-AUTOMATED SYSTEMS

LIGHTING ONLY SYSTEMS: When a "Lighting Only" conversion is completed the home has no controls, no PC is required and no programming is needed. It is as close to a standard house as possible. Lights are simply controlled by pressing the light switch on the wall!

Since the complexity is eliminated and a need for a PC is removed, this type of conversion is also very popular when trying to resell your home. And of course this is a cheaper and faster conversion than an automated conversion.

Unfortunately some (few) Smarthouses were built around "Proprietary" controls and may still require an updated form of control system. However in the vast majority of cases this is not true and the homes can still become a "Lighting Only" install without the need for a control system. Call and we can discuss your house to see if it is compatible with a LIGHTING ONLY CONVERSION.

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS: With the "Automated Version" all of the automated events originally installed are possible along with a wide variety of newer features. In addition the home will be controlled using the latest "**OPEN ARCHITECTURE**" approach. This means that many third party choices of subsystems are possible and the home is no longer based on proprietary lighting and control schemes.

Choosing an Automated conversion will increase the appeal to "techie" types but will have the added cost of the control system and and subsequent programming.

THERE ARE NOW TWO METHODS OF ACTUALLY DOING THE CONVERSIONS

Once you have decided on a "Lighting Only" or an "Automated" conversion, You must then choose between two styles used to handle the actual conversion work.

STANDARD CONVERSION METHOD:

This method of actually completing the work has been around since 1996. It requires that every location where a Smarthouse Block is installed be completely removed and replaced with an adapter bracket to adapt the larger than normal hole in the wall to house standard size ALC wall switches.

RETROFIT CONVERSION METHOD:

This method was created in 2011 as a quicker and easier method to convert Smarthouses. It involves us inserting an ALC circuit board into the housing of the original Smarthouse block so that the Electrician can simply unplug the old style Smarthouse Block and insert the replacement containing our current Technology switch.

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ARE REPLACEMENT PARTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE ORIGINAL SMARTHOUSE?

Yes **AND NO** While a limited supply of used parts exist no new parts have been made since 1995. You must also consider the fact that that repairs of this proprietary technology is not possible. Used parts came out of installations and as such have aged already. Worse yet is the fact that over the last few years the failure rate has begun to increase rapidly due to this age factor. Failures to the Smarthouse controller itself can cause your automated home to exhibit some catastrophic symptoms. Without a copy of your program and detailed set of installation drawings a repair could be very costly. Waiting until a catastrophic failure to call for a conversion would be also have a huge effect on your lifestyle. Some owners have been forced to move to hotels until repairs are made. Good news is that you can also do a repair using our current lighting choices. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAKE REPAIRS WITH OBSOLETE PARTS!**

DO I NEED TO DO A COMPLETE CONVERSION OR CAN I DO IT IN STAGES OVER TIME?

With either of the types (Automated or Lighting Only) or either of the conversion methods (Standard or Retrofit) it is possible to do a conversion in stages. For example, if you currently have a few lights that no longer work then you can use those as the first phase of your conversion.

WILL THE REPLACEMENT PARTS USED IN A CONVERSION BECOME OBSOLETE ONE DAY?

Unlike the proprietary nature of the Smarthouse design, the ALC parts used for Smarthouse conversions is designed around "Open Architecture". The ALC lighting line we use was designed in 1996 by AMP Inc. engineer Gary Axe with consulting advice from our companies founder Tony Stewart. There were two primary objectives. The first was to create a replacement for the obsolete Smarthouse lighting blocks and the second was to create an open architecture light switch that can be used in conventionally wired homes. Since then many thousands of conventionally wired homes have used the ALC lighting system (and not just Smarthouses). The design of the ALC lighting system also allows for upward mobility and has been used by a variety of third party manufacturers as their choice of lighting. With open architecture competitive and compatible brands are possible. In addition unlike the obsolete parts found inside Smarthouse devices, the internal design of our product makes repairs possible for years into the future.

In 2009, the owner of the ALC lighting system (OnQ Legrand) sold this product line to us. Since then Stewart Electronics has moved the manufacturing of this product line from China to the United States. Currently, we feel that this move assures that we can manufacturer the product line indefinitely. In addition, we have plans underway to update some of the components to keep our system abreast of advancements in electronics techniques.

SHOULD I CHOOSE A FULLY AUTOMATED OR A LIGHTING ONLY CONVERSION?

The answer to that is different for each owner. Some of our clients love the advantages of a fully automated house while others simply want the lights to work when the wall switch is pressed. Review the pros and cons section of this document for some more specific answers.

SHOULD I CHOOSE THE STADARD ALC OR THE RETROFIT CONVERSION METHOD?

While the end result is similar, a number of factors must be considered to answer this question. See our Pros and Cons section.

WHY CAN'T LOCAL CONTRACTORS DO THE CONVERSION FOR ME?

Actually our advice is just that. We don't do the conversion ourselves. Instead we are on your site a minimal amount of time for the purpose of consulting and training your choice of local talent. Also see the question about wiring your home conventionally.

CAN I SIMPLY CONVERT MY HOME TO CONVENTIONAL ELECTRICAL WIRING INSTEAD?

This is not likely due to the method used to initially wire your home for a Smarthouse. The wires simply don't go where they need to go and changing that is more costly (if possible at all) than using our method of conversion which uses the existing wire now installed. Many times there are a few places where standard electrical wiring can be installed but the bulk of the work will involve using the existing Smarthouse wiring to do a conversion. This spider web of non-standard wiring often confuses local talent and results in a feeling that no one locally can help you. Once we are done with our training visit, your local talent can complete the conversion all at once or slowly in phases and also maintain it in the future. Once converted your home would use current technology and be much easier to understand by local contractors even though the wires are not in the convention places.

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Our primary objective is to replace your obsolete lighting dimmers and fixtures with modern technology using parts that are available from multiple sources using local craftsmen. Another objective is to better position your home for resale. Should you ever wish to put your home on the market, full disclosure of the status of your obsolete Smarthouse system (without our conversion) would be required, which would most likely make your home difficult or impossible to sell!

SO HOW DO WE DO THIS? WE DO IT THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO METHODS

STANDARD METHOD

This method has been used since 1996 to replace Smarthouse Blocks (Lighting) with newer technology that can be maintained by local Electricians using readily available ALC parts.

Pros

Current technology replacements are used

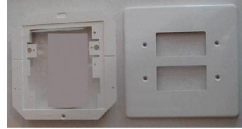
Cons

Requires an extensive rewire of each existing Smarthouse block location . Local electricians will do this part (often under our supervision).



Future replacements can be purchased at numerous locations.

Most expensive style of conversion. *Expensive adapter brackets shown below are required.*



Repairs can be made at our US factory.

Adapter Brackets are special made for this purpose and not available from any other source but us.

The ALC light switch used has been installed in thousands of home worldwide and not just as a Smarthouse Conversion switch.

Requires most amount of local Electrician time to convert. *Electricians average 1 block (switch) location per hour.*

Allows future ALC replacements to be changed in similar manner as when changing a conventional switch (but is still labor intensive).

In some homes, this method of conversion places the ALC switch along the baseboard of each room adjacent to the electrical outlets.

STANDARD METHOD BEFORE CONVERSION



STANDARD METHOD AFTER CONVERSION

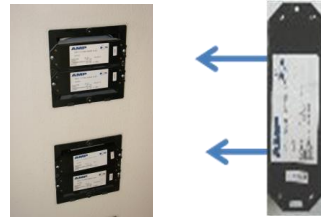


RETROFIT METHOD

This method was created in 2011 as a second option of using our ALC parts to replace Smarthouse Blocks (lighting).

Pros

Current technology uses Plug n Play replacements. Quickly attaches in very similar method to original Smarthouse blocks.



Cons

UL approved, US made light ALC switch circuit boards are inserted into previously UL approved Smarthouse block housings. Accordingly, user repairs are not encouraged but are possible.

Cheapest style of conversion.

No adapter brackets required. Simply unplug obsolete Smarthouse block and insert the retrofit block containing current technology into the existing bracket. No major rewiring required!

Fastest style of conversion. *Electricians average 5 to 8 block location per hour.*

The ALC switch circuit board inserted into Smarthouse block housing has been installed in thousands of home worldwide and not just as a Smarthouse conversion switch.

Repairs can be made at our US factory.

Automated conversions require an initial visit from us to adapt our system for automation.

RETROFIT METHOD BEFORE CONVERSION



RETROFIT METHOD AFTER CONVERSION



HOW TO ESTIMATE YOUR COSTS FOR A CONVERSION

Step 1. Decide if you want an Automated System or a Lighting Only System?

Step 2. Decide if you want the Standard ALC Conversion method or the new Retrofit Conversion Method?

Step 3. Count the number of Smarthouse lighting loads you have? A group of lights that are all controlled together only counts as one.

Step 4. Call us with your answers and we will figure travel costs (if needed) to your area and provide your estimate.