Typesetting Electrical Wiring Diagrams for Relay Control Systems with \LaTeX{} and TikZ

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1 Abstract

This package contains a collection of symbols for typesetting electrical wiring diagrams for relay control systems. The symbols are meant to be in agreement with international standard IEC 60617 which is worldwide adopted with perhaps the exception of USA. It extends and modify, when needed, the TikZ-library circuits.ee.IEC. A few non-standard symbols are also included mainly to be used in presentations, particularly with \texttt{beamer} package.

2 Introduction

Relay control systems have been gradually replaced by PLC (Programable Controllers) software. However, small automation systems are usually implemented using relay control systems and the descriptions of PLC connection to external components are done using the same symbols as in relay control systems. Relay control systems are traditionally introduced in the very begin of industrial automation disciplines. This package provides symbols to represent those systems accordingly to IEC 60617.

Very unfortunately, the author has no access to the current version of that standard. The standards consulted during the elaboration of this package are:

- IEC 60617-2/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams – Part 2: Symbol elements, qualifying symbols and other symbols having general application;
- IEC 60617-8/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams – Part 8: Measuring instruments, lamps and signalling devices;

All of the aforementioned standards have been withdrawn and correspond to edition 2 of IEC 60617. The up-to-date edition, at the moment this document was written, is IEC 60617:2012 DB. The author trust that the symbols in this package have not been modified between versions, but without access to the new edition it is impossible to say for sure. One indication that improves confidence in the up-to-dateness of this package is the fact that the current editions is based in editions 2 and 3 and the blunt fact that symbols, once adopted, tend to remain unchanged over time. There are also other libraries with free access\textsuperscript{1} that show symbols with the same form they appear herein. Please, report any inaccuracy and out-to-date symbols.

You can also help if you have access to the current standard and can verify and report the accuracy of the information presented herein. Particularly regarding the dimensions employed in the graphs. Some of them were devised using soundings geometrical rules, but many (like circle diameters) were estimated using poor resolution graphics.

The international standard IEC 60617 is worldwide adopted with perhaps the exception of USA which uses NEMA – National Electrical Manufacturers Association. If you are interested in NEMA standard you should refer to \texttt{tikz-ladder} package. This package is meant to be used for PLC programming, but can also be used for relay control systems.

\textsuperscript{1}See, for instance, \url{https://symbols.radicasoftware.com/stencil/IEC.html} and \url{https://www.tracepartsonline.net/} and search for “CEI IEC”.

1
3 Relay Library

TikZ Library circuits.ee.IEC.relay
\usetikzlibrary{circuits.ee.IEC.relay} % \LaTeX{} and plain \TeX{} and pure pgf
\usetikzlibrary[circuits.ee.IEC.relay] % Con\LaTeX{} and pure pgf
\usetikzlibrary[circuits.ee.IEC.relay] % \LaTeX{} and plain \TeX{} when using TikZ
\usetikzlibrary{circuits.ee.IEC.relay} % Con\LaTeX{} when using TikZ

This library provides graphics for electrical wiring diagrams for relay control systems according to the international standard IEC 60617. The library was written to extend the TikZ-library circuit.ee.IEC.

The reader is urged to read the Section “Circuit Libraries” of TikZ manual. This library defines the following key:

/tikz/circuit ee IEC relay

This key should be passed as an option to a picture or a scope that contains a diagram. It will do some internal setups.

/tikz/activated

Adding this key to a contact symbol will “activate the contact” so that a \texttt{make contact} will close, a \texttt{break contact} will open and a \texttt{change-over contact} will change. The “activated” symbols are not in accordance with IEC 60617 because contact shall be drawn in the deactivated position, but sometimes we need to illustrate how a circuit works and this comes in handy. The main purpose is for \texttt{beamer} presentations, see Section 7.2 for details and further examples. Compare deactivated (normal) and activated break contact:

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
\texttt{\tikz[circuit ee IEC relay]} & \texttt{\draw (0,0) to[break contact] (0,1.5)} \texttt{(1,0) to[break contact, activated] (1,1.5)} \\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

/tikz/term=[⟨options⟩]⟨angle⟩: ⟨text⟩

This key is meant to place text information about the upper terminal of the component. It has nearly the same effect as the \texttt{label} key, only the placement position is change and following style is used additionally and automatically:

/tikz/every term

Set this style to configure the styling of term labels. Since this key is \texttt{not} used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The \texttt{⟨options⟩} and \texttt{⟨angle⟩} are passed directly to the \texttt{label} command. For a detailed discussion of the \texttt{label} option refer to the TikZ manual.

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

/tikz/term’=[⟨options⟩]⟨angle⟩: ⟨text⟩

This key is similar to \texttt{term}, but it is meant to place text information about the lower terminal of the component. It has nearly the same effect as the \texttt{label} key, only the placement position is change and following style is used additionally and automatically:

/tikz/every term’

Set this style to configure the styling of term’ labels. Since this key is \texttt{not} used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The \texttt{⟨options⟩} and \texttt{⟨angle⟩} are passed directly to the \texttt{label} command. For a detailed discussion of the \texttt{label} option refer to the TikZ manual.

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

/tikz/term’=[⟨options⟩]⟨angle⟩: ⟨text⟩

This key is meant to be used with electrical symbols that have two terminals. It is similar to the \texttt{term} key, but it is used for the lower terminal of the component.
This key is similar to \texttt{term}, but it is meant to place text information about the upper left terminal of the component mainly for change over contact. It has nearly the same effect as the \texttt{label} key, only the placement position is change and following style is used additionally and automatically:

\begin{verbatim}
/tikz/every term'  (style, initially font=\scriptsize)
\end{verbatim}

Set this style to configure the styling of term" labels. Since this key is \textit{not} used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The \texttt{(options)} and \texttt{(angle)} are passed directly to the \texttt{label} command. For a detailed discussion of the \texttt{label} option refer to the TikZ manual.

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

\section{Convention}

In this library, the \texttt{mid} anchor is used to place annotations, which are secondary symbols placed on top of another symbol, on contacts and the north or south anchor on relay coil. The key \texttt{info}, as described in Section “Circuit Libraries” of TikZ manual, is used to place the component identification. Observe that the \texttt{info} has to be provide for the annotation, if any, or for the symbol itself if the annotation is placed at right side of the symbol. The keys \texttt{term}, \texttt{term'} and \texttt{term''} are used to place terminal numbers by the side of component terminals. See Section 6 for details and examples.
## 5 Symbols

The symbols in this library are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>IEC 60617 number</th>
<th>Appearance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/resistor</td>
<td>04-01-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Resistor" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/fuse</td>
<td>07-21-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fuse" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/inductor IEC relay graphic</td>
<td>04-A3-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Inductor" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/bulb</td>
<td>08-10-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bulb" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/magnetic sensor</td>
<td>02-08-02</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Magnetic Sensor" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/thermic sensor</td>
<td>02-08-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Thermic Sensor" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/make contact</td>
<td>07-02-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Make Contact" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/break contact</td>
<td>07-02-03</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Break Contact" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/change over contact</td>
<td>07-02-04</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Change Over Contact" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/relay coil</td>
<td>07-15-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Relay Coil" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/proximity sensor coil</td>
<td>07-19-01</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Proximity Sensor Coil" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/mechanical interlock</td>
<td>02-12-11</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mechanical Interlock" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/horn</td>
<td>08-10-05</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Horn" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tikz/var horn IEC relay graphic</td>
<td>08-10-05</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Var Horn" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three symbols, resistor, inductor and bulb are already defined in TikZ-library circuits.ee.IEC. They are redefined in this package because their proportion was not in agreement with IEC 60617. The symbols inductor is listed in Annex A of IEC 60617 implying it is deleted and should appear in old diagrams or documentation explaining is it obsolete. To use this symbol set the option set inductor graphic = inductor IEC relay graphic either globally with tikzset or locally as option of a picture or a scope.

“Change over contact” is short for “change-over break before make contact”. The symbols make contact, break contact and change over contact can be activated (the contact changes the position) and this feature is needed for creating presentations. See Section 7.2 for details.

This list may look short, but several other symbols are possible combining these symbols with annotation. In fact, it is annotation that empowers this library.

### 5.1 Annotation for relay coils

The relay coil can be used alone or combined with annotations to form:

Note that symbol relay coil is used to produce the graphic for other devices which in fact are not relays at all.
5.2 Annotation for contacts

The contacts can be used alone or combined with annotations to form:

- manually operated
- protected
- var push button

- push button
- pull switch
- turn switch
- emergency switch

- pedal operated
- lever operated
- crank operated
- key operated

- removable handle
- proximity switch
- touch switch
- magnetic switch

- position switch
- roller
- level switch
- var level switch

- thermal switch
- delayed activation
- delayed deactivation
- delayed both

- static switch
- circuit breaker
- counter switch
- pressure switch

- emergency pull switch
- var emergency pull switch
- emergency turn switch
- var emergency turn switch

Temperature sensitive switch is indicated by either the Greek capital letter \( \Theta \) or by the operating temperature
conditions written at the right side of the contact and it can be achieved using the info' key. It is also usual to indicate pressure sensitive switch with roman letter P or by the operating pressure conditions in the same way.

Some symbols can be obtained by combining in this library with symbol from the TikZ-library circuit.ee.IEC, for instance, a static switch, passing current in one direction only (IEC symbol 07-25-03) can be drawn using a make contact and a diode as:

In this case, the space or grid should be treated very carefully.

5.3 Annotation self-placement

For contacts, the mid anchor is used to place the annotation at correct position. For instance, a push button applied to all kinds of contacts produces:

In the case of a position switch, delayed activation, delayed deactivation, delayed both and static switch, the orientation is also adjusted with the help of input anchor:

Annotations can be mirrored using the apostrophe (’), e.g., a position switch, mechanically operated in both directions with two separate circuits would be:

5.4 Change over contact

Change over contact, or more exactly, “change-over break before make contact” is the only contact in this library that has three terminals. The bottom and top right terminal are connected in the usual way, namely,
using the command to. To allow the user access to the top left terminal, an anchor named\(^2\) output 1 is automatically placed. To use this anchor, the contact has to be named. The reference is available in the same and subsequent paths. Therefore,

\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
  \coordinate (n1) at (0,0);
  \draw \[\text{coordinate (n1) at (0,0)};\]
  \begin{scope}[\text{coordinate (n1) at (0,0)}]
  \draw \[\text{coordinate (n1) at (0,0)};\]
  \draw node[red,\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\time...
but if there is no annotation or the annotation is on the left side, use the info' inside the symbol:

It also possible to label the terminals for assembling reference. There are three specially designed keys for it:

- term places a label at the top right side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the top terminal. Because of TikZ convention, an anchor named output is placed on this terminal;
- term' places a label at the bottom right side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the bottom terminal. Because of TikZ convention, an anchor named input is placed on this terminal;
- term" places a label at the top left side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the top left terminal of a change over contact. Because of TikZ convention, an anchor named output 1 is placed on this terminal. Key term" places the label such that a line to output 1 can be drawn vertically or horizontally without crossing the label.

Each one of these three keys can be individually styled using the style, e.g., every term'/style.

A slow operating relay coil:

A change over contact of the same relay:

7 Design Guidance

This section brings some recommendations that reflect the way I produce diagrams for relay control systems. It may or may not work for you. Feel free to e-mail me if you have better ideas.

The first thing to consider is that, as the manual says, “TikZ ist kein Zeichenprogramm” which translates to “TikZ is not a drawing program”. You shall start with a draft of you diagram and then codify it using TikZ. Generally, a handmade pencil sketch will do. In this draft, you shall use node names for future reference. For instance, the contact named N1 below is used as a connection point for the latching contact of relay K1; contacts N0L and N24L are used for power rails (left side).

The second thing to consider is that tikz-relay uses the \tikzcircuitsizesizeunit to keep all figures proportional. Therefore, when you consider any dimension related to symbol size it is good idea to set
that dimension in respect to \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit}, i.e., using \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} as the unit of length. The default value of \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} is 7 pt or approximately 2.46 mm and it can be set by the circuit symbol unit key among several other keys. You can think of \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} as the module size \( M \) in IEC 60617. Most symbols presented in the IEC 60617 are draw using \( M = 2.5 \text{ mm} \). This can be achieved placing the command \texttt{\tikzset{circuit symbol unit=2.5mm}} in the document preamble which changes \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} to 7.11317 pt document wide (not too different from the default value though). You can establish your own length unit and set \( x \) and \( y \) to that length unit. In this way you will be working on a grid; if it is too big or too small you will have to change a single declaration.

Finishing up the previous example, the \( x \) grid is set to five \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} to allow horizontal space for labels and \( y \) grid is set to four \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} because the symbols used in control circuit schematics are two \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} tall, so there will be one \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit} above and below the symbol. Starting at \( N_1 \), the latching contact of \( K_1 \) is placed one horizontal length unit aside \( b_1 \).

Power rails are placed using named nodes. This is not really necessary since the beginning and end of the power rails lines can be determined easily because we are working on a grid.

Because of the direction chosen when the symbols were first defined in \LaTeX{}, we start from the bottom moving to the top of the diagram. This is not mandatory, although changing the direction requires that all symbols and annotations be negatively scaled (locally rotated by \( 180^\circ \)), for instance, the last example would be:

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
  x=\texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit},y=\texttt{\tikzcircuitsizeunit},
  every circuit symbol/.style={scale=-1},
  every circuit annotation/.style={scale=-1}]
\draw (0,0)  
ode [contact,name=\texttt{N24L}] {}  
ode [contact,name=\texttt{N1}] {}  
ode [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24R}] {}  \draw (1,0)  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24R}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N1}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}  \draw (0,-1)  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N1}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24R}] {}  \draw (1,-1)  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24R}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N24L}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N1}] {}  \node [contact,name=\texttt{N0L}] {}\end{tikzpicture}
```

where \texttt{every circuit symbol/.style={scale=-1}} and \texttt{every circuit annotation/.style={scale=-1}} were used to scale the symbols and annotations, respectively. This example produces the very same diagram, but we start at the top and work down to the bottom.

### 7.1 Some tricks

Power circuits schematics use a more diverse variety of symbol height than control circuit schematics. Thus, it is better to set the grid to a smaller value. This allows for a higher control over the symbols distance. For each symbol, consider its height and allow some extra space between symbols.
Some symbols like relay coils for power circuit schematics are not available, thus we can draw a square by the side of the relay contacts connecting it to the right most contact using a dashed line. The mid anchor is perfect for that. Actually, we shall start at the mid anchor of the right most contact and draw a dashed line to the left using relative coordinates, at the end of the dashed line we place a square node with no text inside, but with a label above (or left) identifying the relay coil.

The inductors look a bit odd: the semicircles end in very sharp corners. It is better to change the line joint to bevel.

You can use different styles for info and info', and also for term, term' and term", but it is usually a bad idea. It is normally best to set a style for one of these keys and copy it to the others.

For example, a star-delta motor starter has power circuit schematic like:

```
\begin{tikzpicture}
\tikzcircuitset{relaysize=3mm, relaylayer=1, circuit ee IEC relay,\thick, x=\tikzcircuitssizeunit, y=1.2\tikzcircuitssizeunit, every inductor/.style={line join=bevel}, every term/.style={gray,font=\scriptsize}, every term'/.style={every term,style=every term}, every term''/.style=every term}
\draw (0,0) to[make contact={term=1,term'=2}] ++(0,4) -- ++(0,1) node[contact]{} to[inductor={name=LR,term=1,term'=4}] ++(0,5) node[contact]{} to[thermic sensor={info=$F_R$,term=1,term'=2}] ++(0,3) to[make contact={term=1,term'=2}] ++(0,4) to[fuse] ++(0,4) node[above]{};
\draw (0,0) -- ++(4,0) node[contact]{} to[make contact={term=3,term'=4}] ++(0,4) -- ++(0,1) node[contact]{} to[inductor={name=LS,term=2,term'=5}] ++(0,5) node[contact]{} to[thermic sensor={term=3,term'=4}] ++(0,3) to[make contact={term=3,term'=4}] ++(0,4) to[fuse] ++(0,4) node[above]{};
\draw (4,0) -- ++(4,0) to[make contact={name=K2T,term=5,term'=6}] ++(0,4) -- ++(0,1) node[contact]{} to[inductor={name=LT,term=3,term'=6}] ++(0,5) node[contact]{} to[thermic sensor={term=5,term'=6}] ++(0,3) to[make contact={name=K1T,term=5,term'=6}] ++(0,4) to[fuse] ++(0,4) node[above]{};
\draw (N1R) -- ++(2,0) to[make contact={term=3,term'=4}] ++(0,4) |- (N2S);\draw (N1S) -- ++(2,0) to[make contact={name=K3T,term=5,term'=6}] ++(0,4) |- (N2T);\draw (N1T) -| ++(2,-6) -| ++(-15,6) -- ++(3,0) to[make contact={term=1,term'=2}] ++(0,4) |- (N2R);
draw[dashed](K1T.mid) --++(-10,0) node[draw,solid,minimum size=3mm,label={above:{$K_1$}}]{};
draw[dashed](K2T,mid) --++(-10,0) node[draw,solid,minimum size=3mm,label={above:{$K_2$}}]{};
draw[dashed](K3T,mid) --++(-10,0) node[draw,solid,minimum size=3mm,label={above:{$K_3$}}]{};\end{tikzpicture}
```

Control circuit schematics can use a much bigger grid space because the symbol heights are the same, i.e. always two units of length. When setting the x unit of length, you need to consider the space occupied by labels and annotations.

Sometimes we need to place a symbol upside-down. This is the case of the star-delta motor starter control circuit schematic in which a change-over contact is used to change from $K_2$ to $K_3$. To achieved the...
correct orientation, a negative \( y \) scaling is set by \( y\text{-scale}=-1 \). This contact is named \( t1 \) for future reference, in this case, to access the output 1 and connect it to \( K_2 \). If you think it is against IEC 60617 rules to draw the change-over contact upset-down you will end up with a terrible layout because of the position of the common terminal.

The relay coil \( K_3 \) is also placed using top-down direction and, consequently, it has to be negatively scaled (mirrored). In this case, we need to mirror the symbol in both \( x \) and \( y \) direction so the terminal and symbol identification will be correctly located. So, \( \text{scale}=-1 \) is used.

The power rails are drawn using grid coordinates. A fuse is placed in the top power rail.

\begin{tikzpicture}
% Circuit diagram using TikZ
\end{tikzpicture}

7.2 Beamer presentation with overlay

Perhaps the most important feature of beamer is its capacity of creating a series of slides based in one slide for, e.g., showing one concept step by step. It is called overlay. Unfortunately, beamer overlay and TikZ present some compatibility issues when overlay macros are typed in the options list of a TikZ command.
This can be solved setting two TiKZ keys that takes advantage of the fact that \pgfkeysalso doesn’t change the path.

\usetikzlibrary{alt and visible (overlay)}
\tikzset{
  alt/.code args={<#1>#2#3}{% 
    \alt<#1>{\pgfkeysalso{#2}}{\pgfkeysalso{#3}}
  },
  visible/.code args={<#1>#2}{% 
    \alt<#1>{\pgfkeysalso{#2}}{}
  }
}

Once these keys are in place, they can be used instead of \visible and \alt macros with a syntax slightly different. The following example creates three slides to illustrate how a push button works with a break contact and, when pushed, break contact is activated. Below, the result is shown side by side:

During the presentation you can say that “pressing B1 the lamp L1 turns off, releasing it turns L1 on again”. One cool trick is to move forward and backward between slides 2 and 3.

To draw this example, we start with the schematics and once it is ready the animation part is done by placing keys visible and alt in suitable locations. The filling of L2 is visible only in slide 1 and 3. B1 appears differently depending on the slide. For slides 1 and 3, B1 is a normal break contact (closed), but in slide 2 it is an ‘activated’ break contact which is open. Note that key bulb receives or not the key fill. Similarly, the key break contact receives or not the key activated (the key visible could be used instead of alt).

When developing “animations”, you may need to know the overlay number. It can be printed, say in the frame title, using macro \overlaynumber; type this in the document preamble:

\makeatletter
\newcommand{\overlaynumber}{\number\beamer@slideinframe}
\makeatother

If you need to generate a handout, the visible argument will be drawn as well as the first argument of alt no matter what is the overlay specification (the thing between < and > signs). Therefore, the above example would appear like:

and it does not match any of the previous slides\(^4\). Keep in mind that you shall finish the schematic in the regular form (without any activated contact) and then activated can be inserted always as the second argument of alt; the first argument shall be left empty, e.g., alt\(<1,3\>{\text{activated}}\). Alternatively, you can use, e.g., \text{alt}<1,3>{\text{activated=false}}{\text{activated=true}}. The slide numbers enlisted in the overlay specification shall correspond to slides in which the contact is not activated.

The “correct” diagram that works both in beamer and handout modes is:

\(^4\)It is just wrong.
The handout will show a lighted lamp in series with a deactivated break contact. If you do not want that the lamp appears lighted, use \texttt{alt={<2>{}{fill=yellow}}} instead of \texttt{visible}. So, the lamp will not be lighted in slide 2 (implying it will in slides 1 and 3) and it will not be lighted in the handout as well.

A complete, though minimalistic, example is provided in a separated file: “BeamerAnimation.tex”, which is listed in Appendix A for your convenience. In this example, a four-step sequencer is animated. A total of twenty slides are generated based in a single schematic. The frame title includes the macro \texttt{\overlaynumber} which generates the slide number and shall be removed once the presentation is ready. So, all slides would look like the same slide, but with animation on it.

### 7.3 Adjusting the diagram size

The diagram size can be adjusted setting \texttt{x} and \texttt{y} units. Mainly, you change those to control the space between symbols, not the diagram size in total. If your diagram is too big, consider to use a landscape page.

For presentations, adjustments can be done using \texttt{resizebox}. Note that you should only use \texttt{resizebox} if your diagram is slightly bigger than the presentation area. If it is too much bigger, the use of \texttt{resizebox} will render small symbols leading to readability problems. In this case, an option is to divide the diagram in smaller pieces. Also, you should reconsider way you need such a big diagram in a presentation. Usually, small examples are better to clarify your point.

It is not a good idea to change the diagram size setting \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizesizeunit} using \texttt{circuit symbol unit}. \texttt{\tikzcircuitsizesizeunit} shall be set document wise in the document preamble and kept unchanged.

### 8 Shapes

This is rather technical material, but it is here anyway and you may use it to modify or extend the library. It that case, if you need help, please do not hesitate in contacting the author.

Several anchors are defined for each symbol (or, more exactly, shapes). The mechanism TikZ uses to place anchors and define borders is sophisticated. It takes into account the line width (or an optional additional space defined by \texttt{outer sep} to place the anchors just on the line border of the symbol. Something called “anchor border” is also defined in the same manner. Anchor border is used to place labels around the symbol and interrupt the line directed to the symbol. Remember that a symbol is usually placed by command which interrupts the path line the symbol is placed on. It makes perfect sense for symbols that encloses some area, like \texttt{proximity sensor coil} and \texttt{relay coil} and even for symbols that, although they do not enclose an area, defines some intuitive border, like \texttt{magnetic sensor} and \texttt{thermic sensor}. But it makes little sense for contacts.

Contacts can be considered an especial case of symbols. They have no defined border, no intuitive notion of inside and outside. The TikZ-library \texttt{circuits} places them in a category called “wires”. The normal anchors (north, south, south west, etc.) have no practical use. Even so, they need a \texttt{center} anchor, used to place the symbol, and a \texttt{side} anchor, used to place annotations. They also need an anchor border in order to interrupt the line during placement (and also for label positioning). The anchor border controls the gap that appears on the line. Thus, it is defined as the symbol size. In other words, the symbol size is an invisible border a bit smaller than the actual symbol because the inclined line which represents the movable contact have an addendum that protrudes beyond the symbol border.

Outer separation is also undesired when placing contact. If the normal treatment were dispensed for contacts, setting the outer separation to any positive number would disrupt the line connected to the symbol.

---

5This file should be in the same folder you have found this document, if not try \url{http://repositorios.cpai.unb.br/ctan/graphics/pgf/contrib/tikz-relay/doc/BeamerAnimation.tex}.

6The total size will change, but it is more like a collateral damage than intentional deed.

7See Section “Common Options: Separations, Margins, Padding and Border Rotation” of TikZ manual.
Instead of setting the outer separation to zero, the shape code that produces contacts simply disregards the outer separation when drawing the component.

All symbols below but the mechanical interlock look rotated $90^\circ$ because TikZ uses this orientation to place the symbol in a line.
\begin{tikzpicture}
\node [name=s, activated, shape=change over contact IEC relay, shape example, inner xsep=1cm, inner ysep=1cm, minimum width=6cm, minimum height=6cm] {};
\foreach \anchor/\placement in {center/above, 30/above right, 358/below right, north/above, north east/above, north west/above, south/below, south east/below, south west/below, east/left, west/right, mid/above, input/left, output/right, output 1/below right, output 2/above right}
\draw[shift=(s.\anchor)] plot[mark=x] coordinates{(0,0)} node[\placement] {\scriptsize\texttt{(s.\anchor)}};
\end{tikzpicture}

\begin{tikzpicture}
\node [name=s, shape=magnetic sensor IEC relay, shape example, inner xsep=1cm, inner ysep=1cm, minimum width=6cm, minimum height=6cm] {};
\foreach \anchor/\placement in {center/above, 15/above right, 330/below right, north/above, north east/above, north west/above, south/below, south east/below, south west/below, east/left, west/right, mid/above, input/left, output/right}
\draw[shift=(s.\anchor)] plot[mark=x] coordinates{(0,0)} node[\placement] {\scriptsize\texttt{(s.\anchor)}};
\end{tikzpicture}
9 Known Issues

This library is based on withdrawn standards and the current standardized symbols might be different. It is also rather incomplete; so, many symbols are missing, though in my best knowledge the missing symbols are rarely used. Let me know if you need a symbol, I will do my best to implement it.

If you want to report a bug or have any suggestion, please feel free to send me an e-mail. Contact details are in the first page. Every feedback is important.

10 Final Remarks

This package has been tested and used for more than three years, so I do believe it is mature by now and I decided to share it. On the other hand, I was the only person who used it, therefore idiosyncrasies were not detected.

Any comments, suggestions, request for a missing symbols and feedback are welcomed. I will do my best to answer as soon as possible. My contact e-mail is in the first page.

It should be great if someone with experience in writing TikZ libraries could have a look in the code and point out error or improvements to be made.
Appendix A – Beamer Example of a Four Step Sequencer

In this example, the animations is done in two layers: the schematics is drawn on foreground with contact and filling animation; on the background, circles (actually, ellipses since $x$ and $y$ scales are different) are drawn in light blue to highlight with contact or coil that has been activated because several of them changes from one slide to the next. In order to place the ellipses in the precise position, every contact and coil is named.

At first, only one coil and the contacts respective to one step are drawn, then they are copy three times and the information is changed as needed. Finally, the $b_i$ is added. When the schematics is done, the animation part is made adding the alt key in the foreground and the visible macro in the background.

After the \LaTeX code, the slides were included for reference. They shall be found as a separated PDF file in the same folder you have found this document.

\documentclass{beamer}
\usepackage{tikz, units}
\usetikzlibrary{backgrounds, circuits.ee.IEC relay}
\begin{document}
\begin{frame}{Four−Step Sequencer \overlaynumber{}}
\begin{center}
\hspace{−0.05\textwidth}\resizebox{1.1\textwidth}{!}{
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay, thick, x=6\tikzcircuitssizeunit, y=5\tikzcircuitssizeunit]
\draw(−1.5,0) node[left]{$\unit[0]{V}$}−−+(9,0)
(−1.5,4) node[left]{$\unit[+24]{V}$}−−+(9,0);
\draw (0,0)
node[contact]{}
to [ relay coil={info=${K_{1}}$, name=k11, alt={<1,2,7−17>}{fill=LRed}}] ++(0,1)
\end{tikzpicture}}
\end{center}
\end{frame}
\end{document}
\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k34) circle (0.4);
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}
\par
\bigskip
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\end{frame}
\end{document}
Four-Step Sequencer 1

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Four-Step Sequencer 2

+24 V

$b_s$ E

$b_1$ E

$K_4$ $K_1$

$b_2$ E

$K_1$ $K_2$

$b_3$ E

$K_2$ $K_3$

$b_4$ E

$K_3$ $K_4$

$K_1$

$K_2$

$K_3$

$K_4$

0 V

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Four-Step Sequencer 3

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Four-Step Sequencer 5

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Four-Step Sequencer 6

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Four-Step Sequencer

+24 V

$K_4$ $K_1$
$b_1$ $E$ $b_2$ $E$
$K_1$ $K_2$
$b_2$ $E$
$K_3$
$K_2$ $K_4$
$b_3$ $E$
$K_2$ $K_3$ $K_1$
$b_4$ $E$
$K_3$ $K_4$
$K_4$

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Four-Step Sequencer 8

+24 V

K_1 \quad b_1 \quad K_2 \\

K_4 \\

K_2 \quad K_1 \\

b_S \quad E \quad K_3

b_2 \quad E \quad K_2

b_3 \quad E \quad K_2

b_4 \quad E

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Four-Step Sequencer 9

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Four-Step Sequencer 10

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Four-Step Sequencer 11

+24 V

b₁ E —

K₄

b₂ E —

K₁

K₃

b₃ E —

K₂

K₄

b₄ E —

K₁

K₃

K₄

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Four-Step Sequencer 13

+24 V

$b_S\ E--$
$K_4\ K_1\ K_2$
$K_3\ K_4$

0 V

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Four-Step Sequencer 14

+24 V

$K_4 \quad K_1$

$K_2$

$b_1 E$—

$b_S E$—

$K_1$

$b_2 E$—

$b_3 E$—

$K_2 \quad K_1$

$K_3$

$K_2 \quad K_3 \quad K_1$

$b_3 E$—

$b_4 E$—

$K_4 \quad K_3 \quad K_4 \quad K_1$

$K_3$

$K_4$

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Four-Step Sequencer 17

+24 V

\[ b_1 \quad b_2 \quad b_3 \quad b_4 \]

\[ b_S \]

\[ K_1 \quad K_2 \quad K_3 \quad K_4 \]

\[ K_1 \quad K_2 \quad K_3 \quad K_4 \]

0 V

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Four-Step Sequencer 18

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