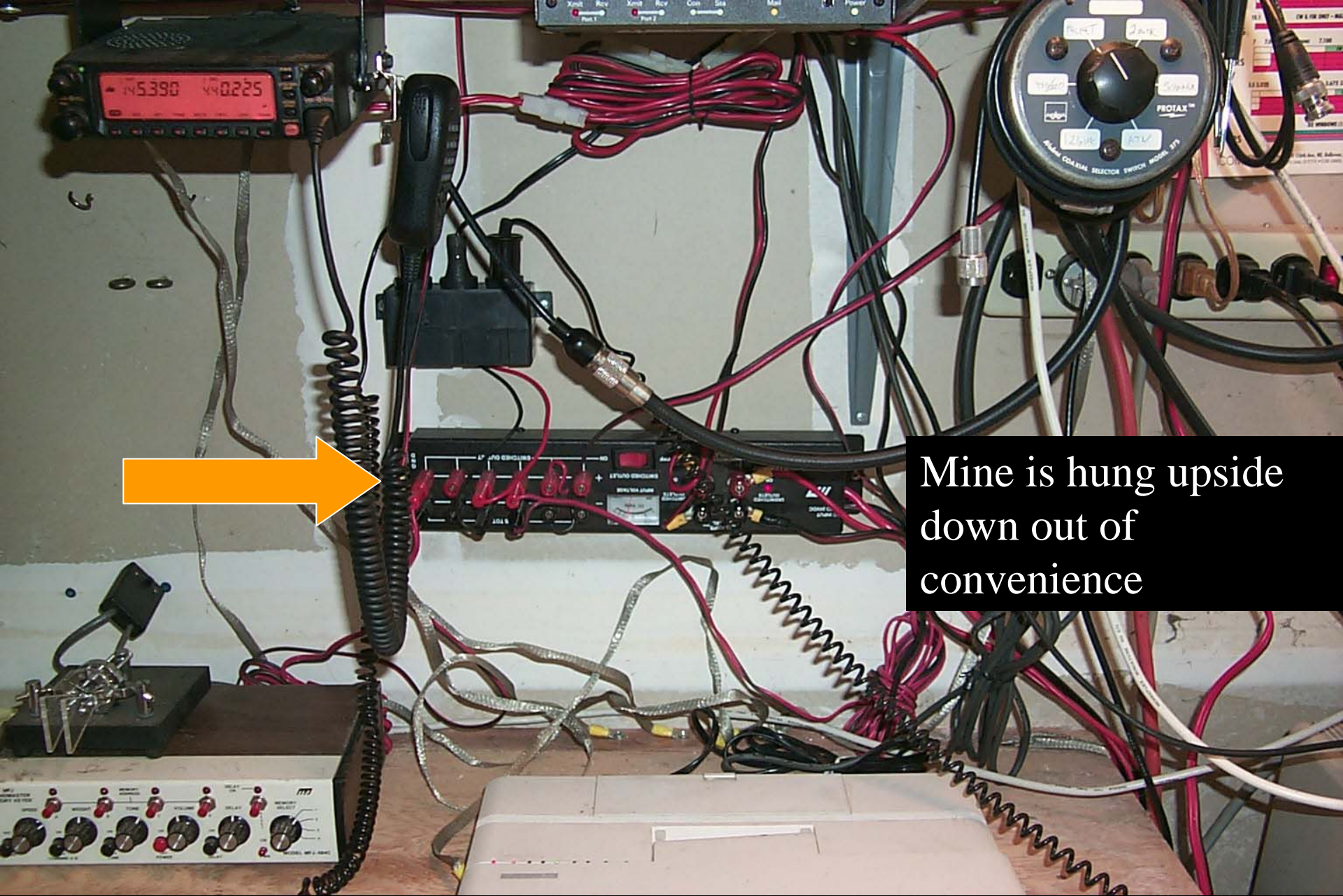




KF6FIR's Sloppy Hamshack



Under all this mess is a power distribution panel.



Mine is hung upside down out of convenience

The power distribution panel will provide a fused line to all your equipment.



I currently have three deep cycle batteries powering my equipment.



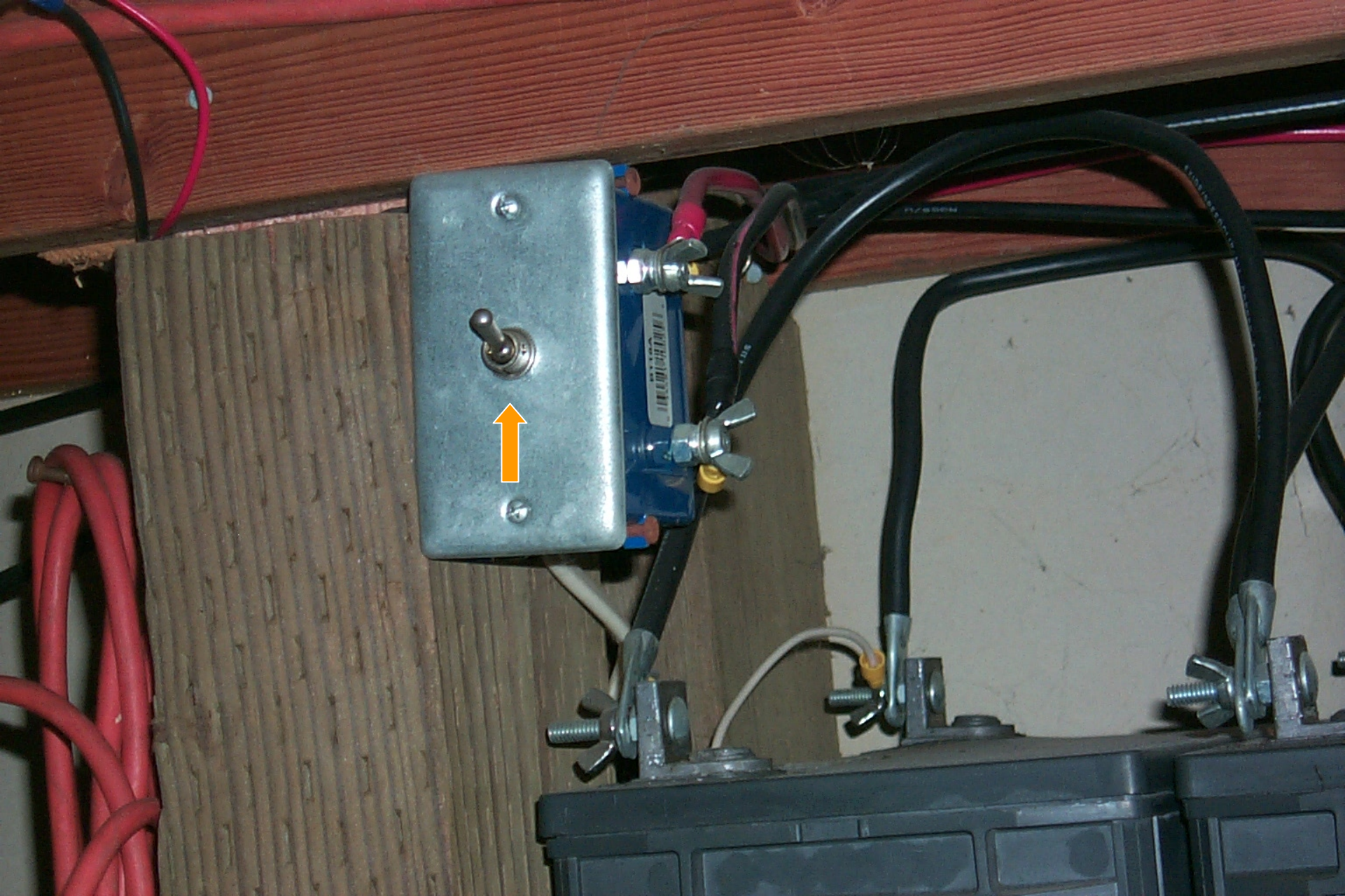
About once a month I charge the batteries using a AC trickle charger. Another option is to use a solar panel to trickle charge.



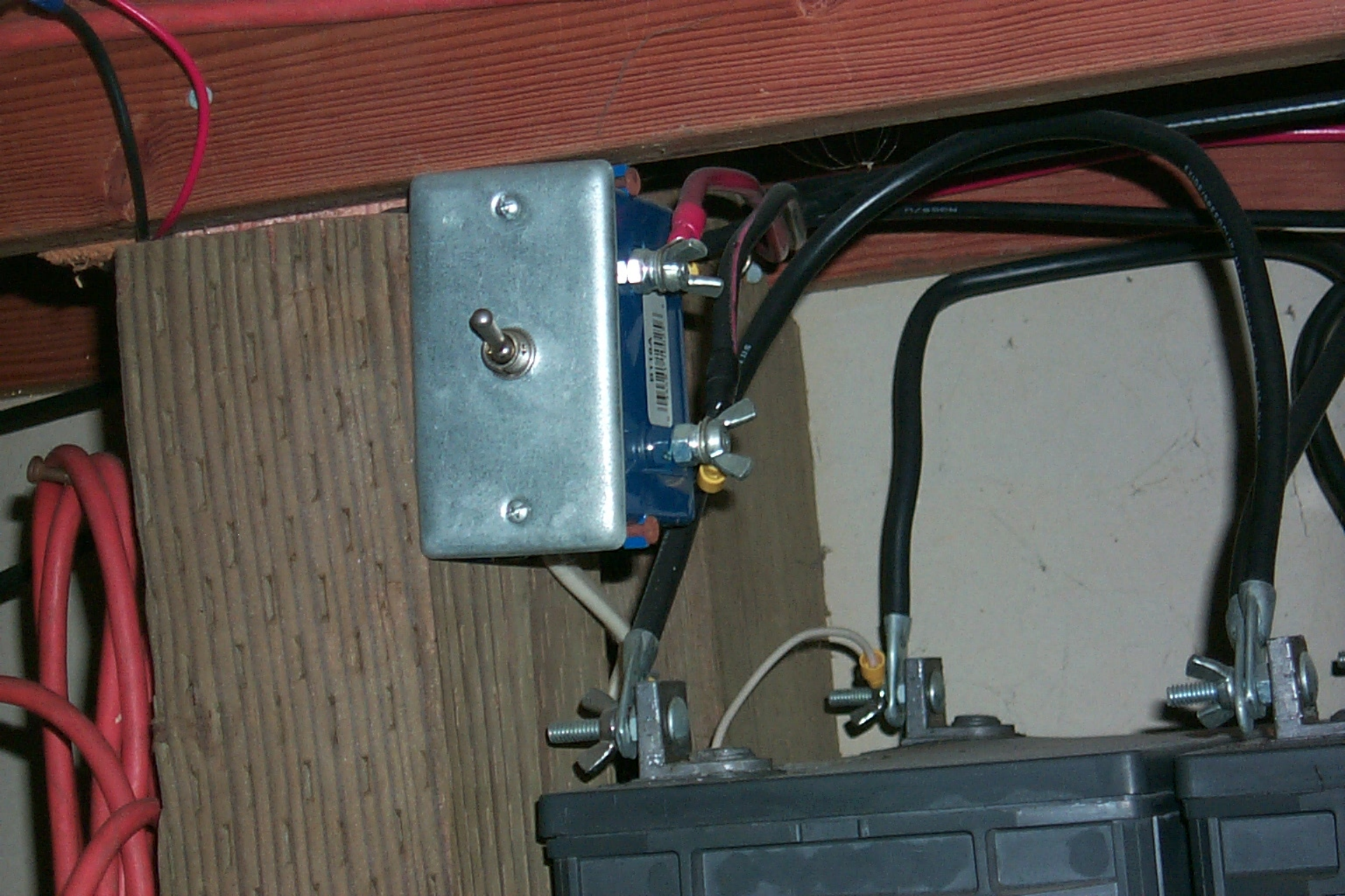
Using battery cables from the local auto parts store, I connect the batteries in parallel. (positive to positive and negative to negative)



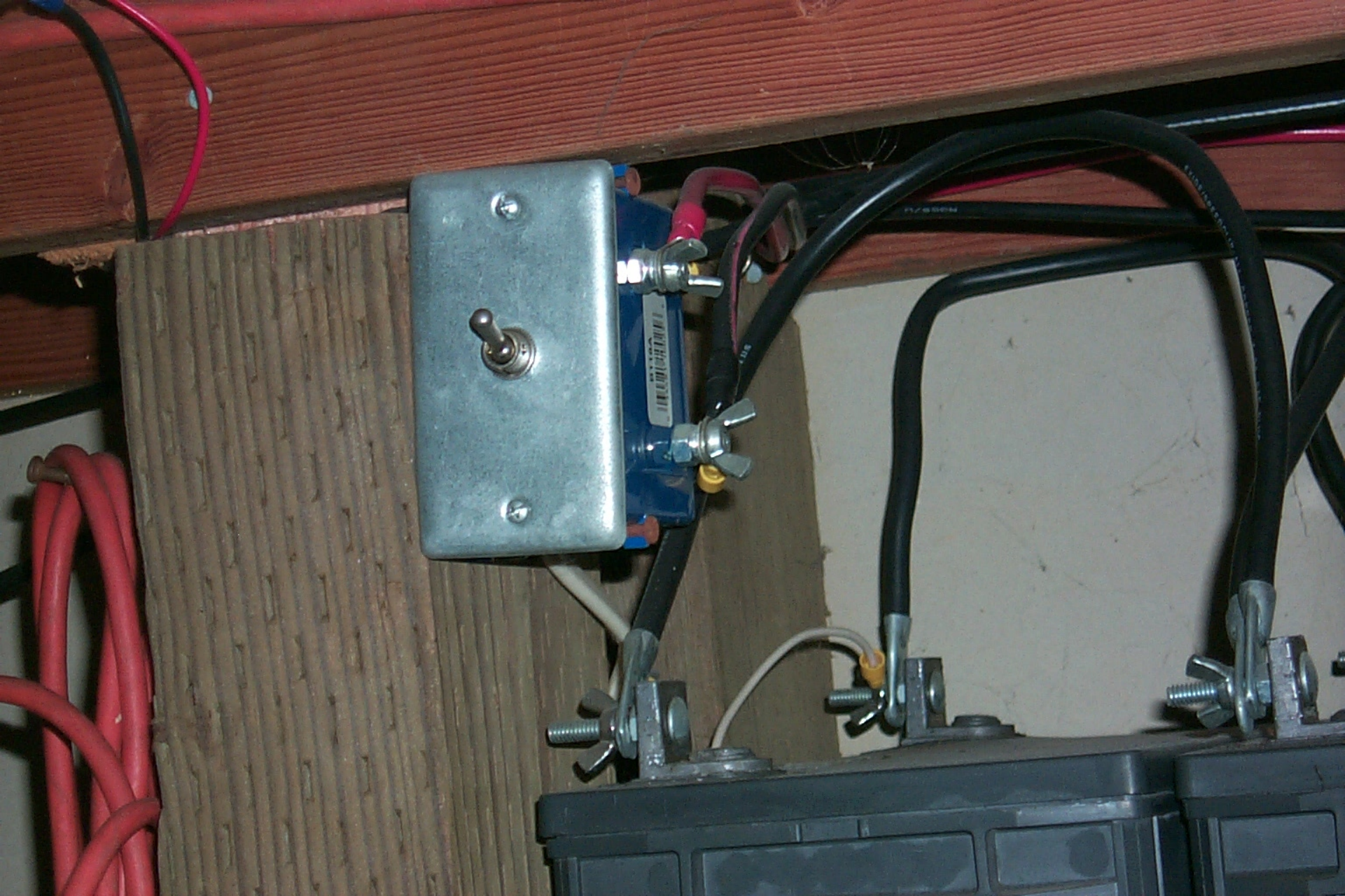
Next the power goes to the shunt switch.



The shunt switch is a single throw double pole "DC" switch. (toggle)



Do NOT use a “AC” switch such as a house light switch! It will not be able to handle the constant current and cease to function



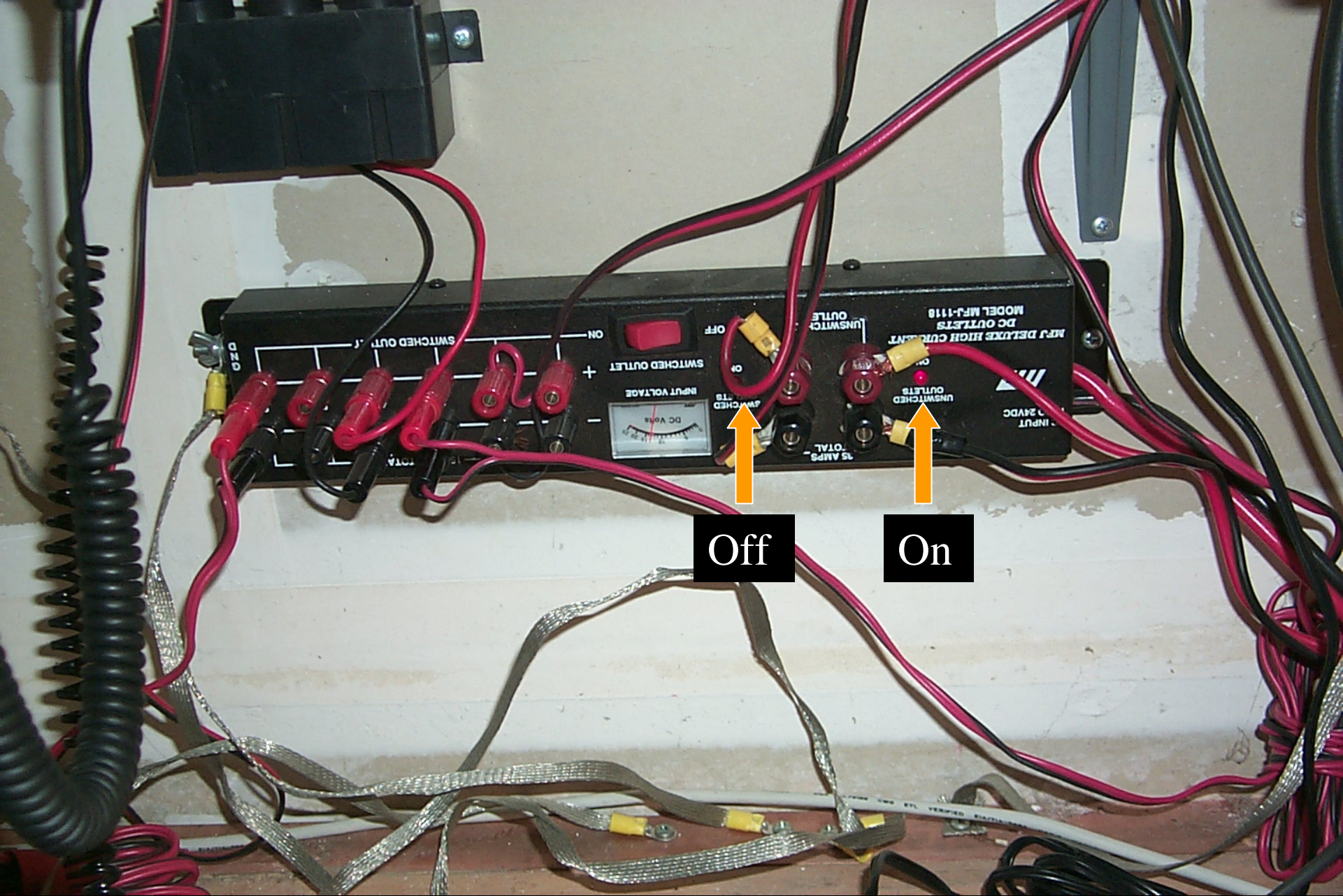
Do let everyone know where the shunt switch is! In an emergency this switch can become very important.



Next is the power distribution panel. The lines on the left are set to handle 15 amps, the right 35 amps.



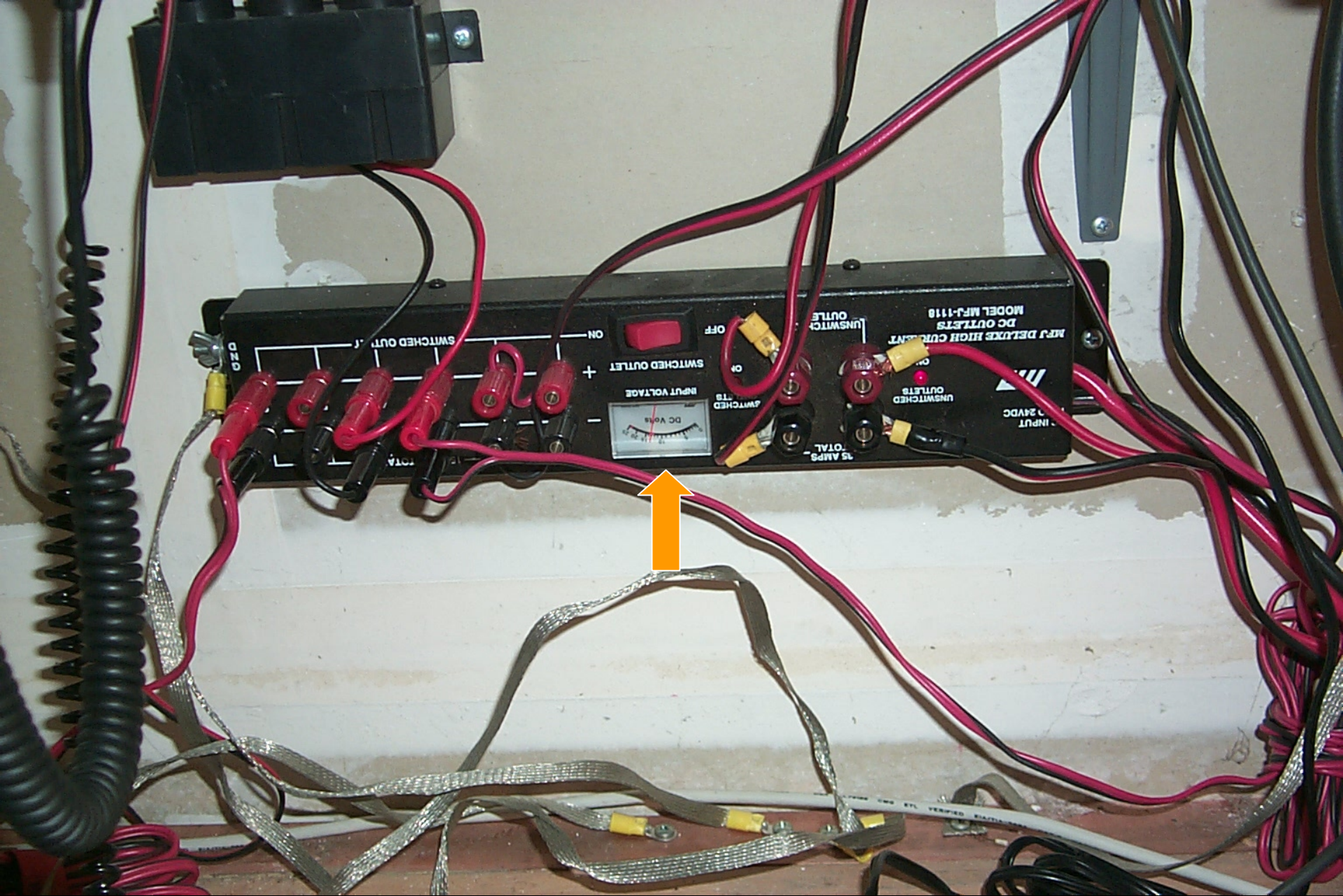
There are two LED's indicating which side is on. As you can see both LED's are on.



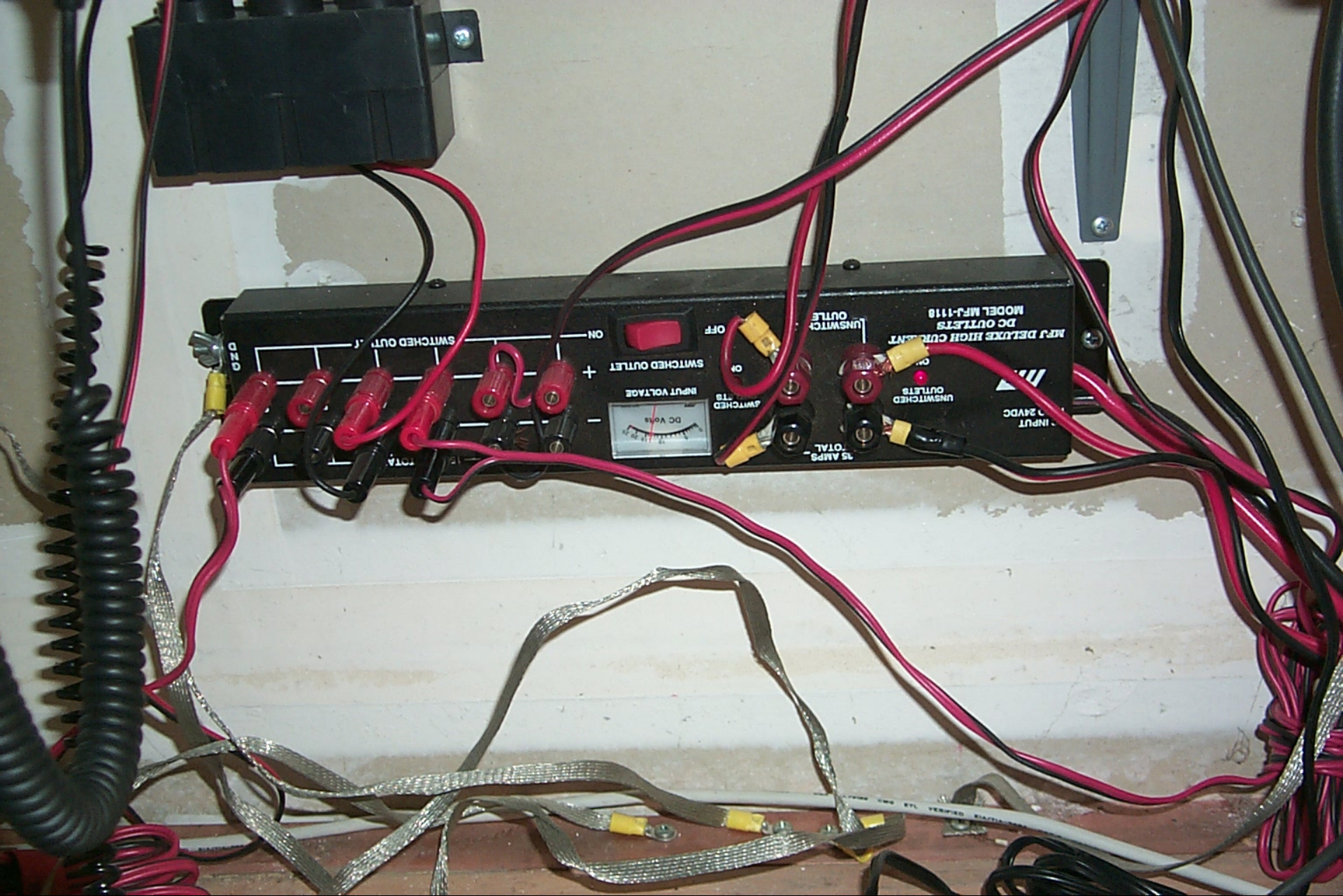
Off

On

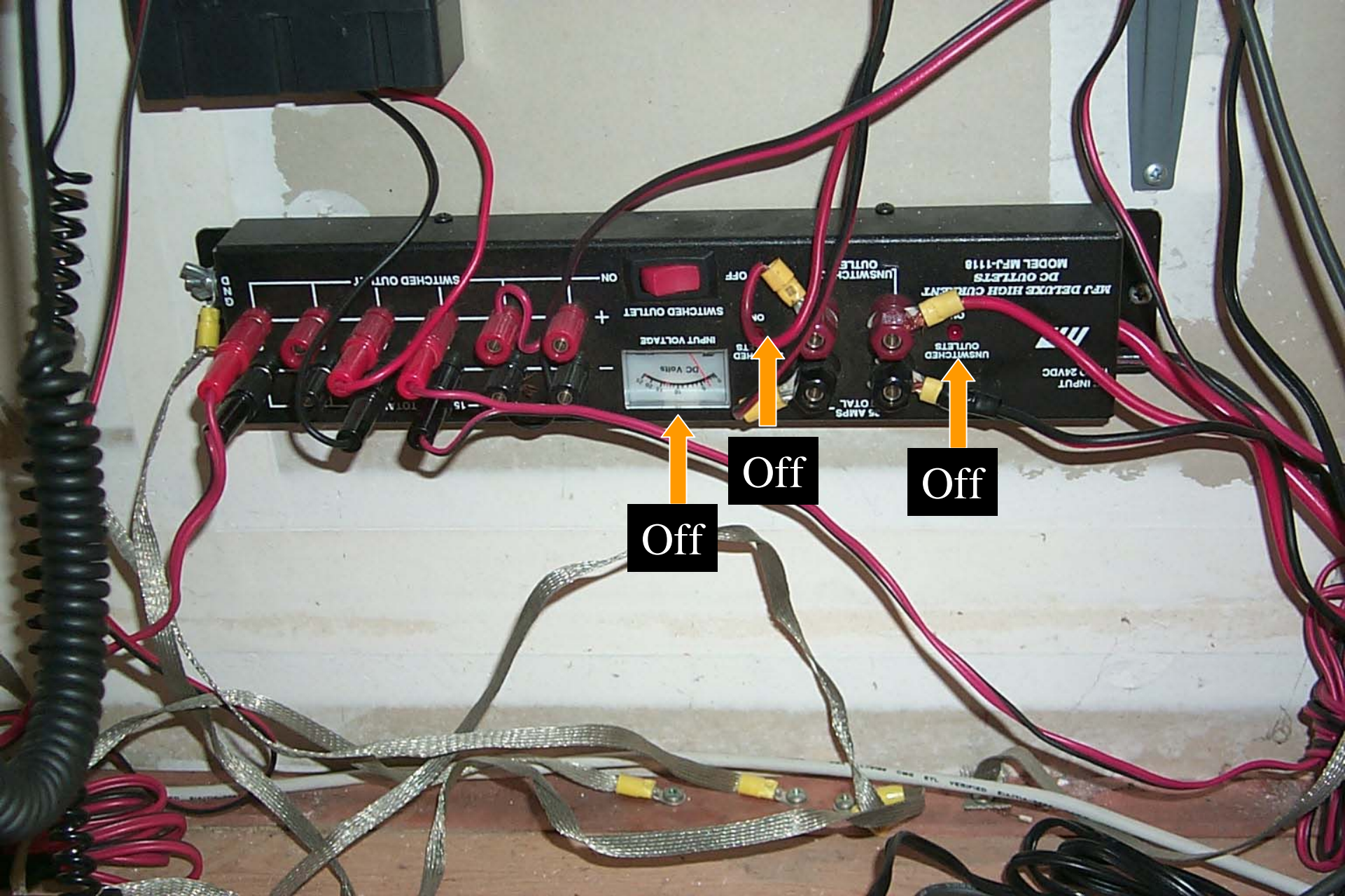
As you can see when we turn the PDP off, the light on the left goes out, but the light on the right is still on.



Notice the voltage gauge still shows power. At this point you can safely add/subtract equipment from the left side (15 amps total).



However the right side (35 amps) is still “hot”. This is where the shunt switch will come in handy.



As you can see, when we turn off the shunt switch total power is gone from the PDP. It is now safe to add/subtract equipment on the both sides.



Also note there are grounding straps to every piece of equipment. They are tied to a copper strip which is tied to a grounding rod.



With this arrangement I can enjoy hours, days and possibly weeks of hamming without external power.



I can use the HF rig



I can use UHF and VHF modes



I can enjoy packet, APRS or listen to the DX Cluster



I can even recharge my batteries for my hand held radios.



I also have 12v cigarette lighter plugs for any other equipment I may want to add on the fly.



There are major advantages to a DC battery system



1) You have emergency power to provide communication when the commercial power goes out.



2) Any equipment used in this system can be readily used in the field.



3) Quieter signal. Less chance of AC hum.



So I hope this helped and encourages some of you to develop your own emergency power ham shack.

A photograph of a ham radio workstation. The desk is covered with various pieces of electronic equipment, including a vintage computer monitor, a laptop, a keyboard, and several pieces of radio gear. A lamp with a white shade is lit on the right side of the desk. The background shows shelves with more equipment and a poster titled "Amateur Radio Band Plan". The text "Happy Hamming" is overlaid in white, with "73," and "KF6FIR" below it.

Happy Hamming

73,

KF6FIR

A photograph of a ham radio operator's workstation. The desk is cluttered with various pieces of electronic equipment. On the desk, there is a vintage computer monitor, a laptop, a keyboard, and several pieces of radio equipment, including a microphone on a stand, a tuner, and a power supply. A lamp with a white shade is positioned on the right side of the desk. The background shows shelves with more equipment and a poster titled "Amateur Radio Band Plan". The text "Happy Hamming" is overlaid in white, followed by "73," and "KF6FIR" in a larger white font.

Happy Hamming

73,

KF6FIR