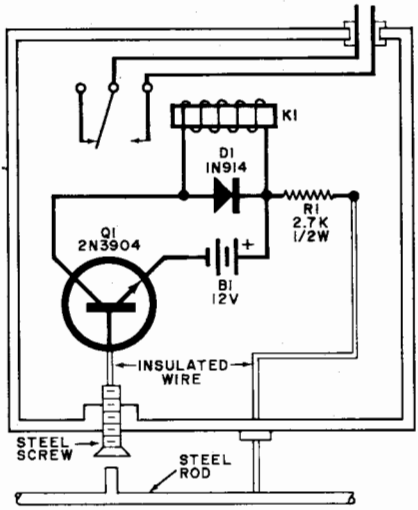
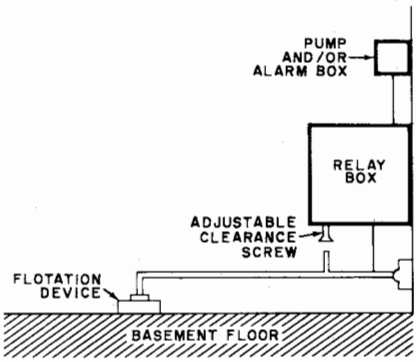


A



B

Basement Flood Alarm

This circuit is intended for those people who are unlucky enough to have leaky basements. It is designed to give a resident early warning of rising water so that he can take the necessary steps to correct the problem. It is shown schematically in Fig. A. Battery *B1* is a 12-volt power source and can be two 6-volt lantern batteries or 8 D cells connected in series. When the rising water causes the steel rod to contact the screw (by means of a flotation device as shown in Fig. B), base current flows through *Q1*. The transistor then conducts and energizes relay *K1*. The relay contacts can be connected to an alarm, a pump, or any combination of devices.

The only precautions that must be observed are that the relay contacts are rated to handle the current drawn by the load(s) connected to them and that the coil current does not exceed the rated collector current of *Q1* (200 mA). The best location for the flood alarm is either in a corner of the basement or at a low spot where water should most likely collect. The screw is adjustable so that the relay will be energized when the water reaches a predetermined level.—*Donald R. Swenson, Webster, WI.*