scope of the invention is to be limited only as defined in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A selector switch including a face plate, selective switching means supported on said face plate and being movable in two directions in each of two degrees of freedom with respect to said face plate, a plurality of current-carrying contacts supported in fixed relation to said face plate, said switching means being movable in either direction of the first degree of freedom for selective alignment with any one of said contacts, and being movable in one direction of the second degree of freedom to effect mechanical engagement with a selected contact thereby preventing further movement in the first degree of freedom, and to effect electrical engagement with said selected contact thereby completing electrical continuity from the selected contact through said switching means, said switching means being also movable in the opposite direction of said second degree of freedom to effect mechanical and electrical disengagement thereof from said selected contact, a terminal, a circuit breaker of the spring-actuated snap-opening type adapted to break heavy current, and being connected in series between said selective switching means and said terminal, said circuit breaker being operable independently of said switching means to assume a fixed open circuit position, and means actuated in response to initial movement of said switching means in said opposite direction of said second degree of freedom to free said spring to open said circuit breaker so as to disconnect said switching means from said terminal.

2. A selector switch in accordance with claim 1, which includes a movable element on said circuit breaker, and linkage means linking said switching means to said movable element and disposed so as to release said spring and open said circuit breaker to disconnect said switching means from said terminal prior to the disengagement of the switching means from said selected contact.

3. A selector switch in accordance with claim 1, which includes stop means associated with said circuit breaker, said stop means being mechanically linked to said selective switching means and being actuated by movement of said selective switching means in said second direction of said second degree of freedom, said circuit breaker having a movable element, and said stop means coacting with said movable element to prevent closure of the circuit breaker when the selective switching means are disengaged.

4. A selector switch including a face plate, selective switching means supported on said face plate and being movable in two directions in each of two degrees of freedom with respect to said face plate, manual means for moving said switching means, a plurality of contacts supported in fixed relation to said face plate, said switching means being movable by said manual means in either direction of the first degree of freedom for selective alignment with any one of said contacts, and being movable in one direction of the second degree of freedom to effect electrical connection with the selected contact thereby completing electrical contact through said switching means, locking means so disposed as to coact with said switching means in said movement of second degree of freedom to lock said switching means and prevent movement in said first degree of freedom, said switching means being also movable in the opposite direction of said second degree of freedom to effect electrical disconnection thereof from said selected contact and to unlock said locking means and thereby allow selective alignment by movement in the first degree of freedom, a terminal, a circuit breaker connected in series between said selective switching means and said terminal, means for operating said circuit breaker independently of said manual means, means independent of said manual means automatically actuated in response to movement of said switching means in said opposite direction of said second degree of freedom to open said circuit breaker so as to disconnect said switching means from said terminal, and means actuating said locking means when said circuit breaker is closed.

5. In a selector switch, a movable switching member, a plurality of spaced electrical contacts cooperating therewith a terminal for external connection to said switching member, a circuit breaker connected in series between said switching member and said terminal, said circuit breaker having a movable member adapted to assume open and closed positions, locking means for locking said movable member against moving to closed position, and linkage means connecting said switching member to said locking means, said locking means being operable in response to operation of said linkage means, said linkage means and said locking means being disposed and arranged to lock said circuit breaker against closure except when said switching means is electrically connected to one of said contacts.

6. In a selector switch, a movable switching member, a plurality of fixed spaced electrical contacts cooperating therewith, a terminal for external connection to said switching member, a circuit breaker connected in series between said switching member and said terminal, said circuit breaker including a movable element operable to open and close said circuit breaker, said element being operable to open said circuit breaker independently of the switching member, and linkage means interconnecting said switching member and said circuit breaker, said linkage means being operable in response to movement of said switching member in a direction to effect disconnection of said switching member from a contact and being disposed so as to actuate said movable element and open said circuit breaker coincident with said movement of said switching member prior to disconnection thereof from a contact.

7. In a selector switch, a movable switching member; a plurality of fixed spaced electrical contacts cooperating therewith; a terminal for external connection to said switching means; a circuit breaker connected in series between said switching member and said terminal; said circuit breaker including a movable element operable to open and close said circuit breaker; first locking means for locking said switching member in contact position; second locking means for locking said movable element in open circuit position; and linkage means coacting with both said locking means; said element, said member, said locking means and said linkage means being operatively associated to comprise interlocking means operative to lock said switching member in contact position except when said element is in open circuit position and to lock said element in open circuit position except when said switching member is in contact position.

8. In a selector switch, a movable switching