

Antique Floor Lamp Wiring

These old floor lamps are great. They generally have two switches; one is integral to the central lamp holder (*not shown on the diagram on page 2, often accepts a larger, mogul-base (E39), 3-way bulb*), and the other is usually a smaller, 3-way turn switch (*shown in yellow on the diagram*) that controls the three "candle" lamp holders (*shown in blue on the diagram, these sometimes accept the smaller, candelabra-base(E12) bulbs.*) Standard bulbs have a medium-base(E26) Edison screw.



If you use 25W bulbs in the three candle lamp holders, and a 100W/200W/300W 3-way bulb in the central lamp holder, the lamp will be "dimmable" in 25W increments:

25W	1 candle bulb on (<i>position ① on the diagram</i>)
50W	2 candle bulbs on (<i>position ② on the diagram</i>)
75W	3 candle bulbs on (<i>position ③ on the diagram</i>)
100W	central bulb on @ 100W, no candle bulbs on (<i>OFF position on the diagram</i>)
125W	1 candle bulb on <i>and</i> main bulb on @ 100W

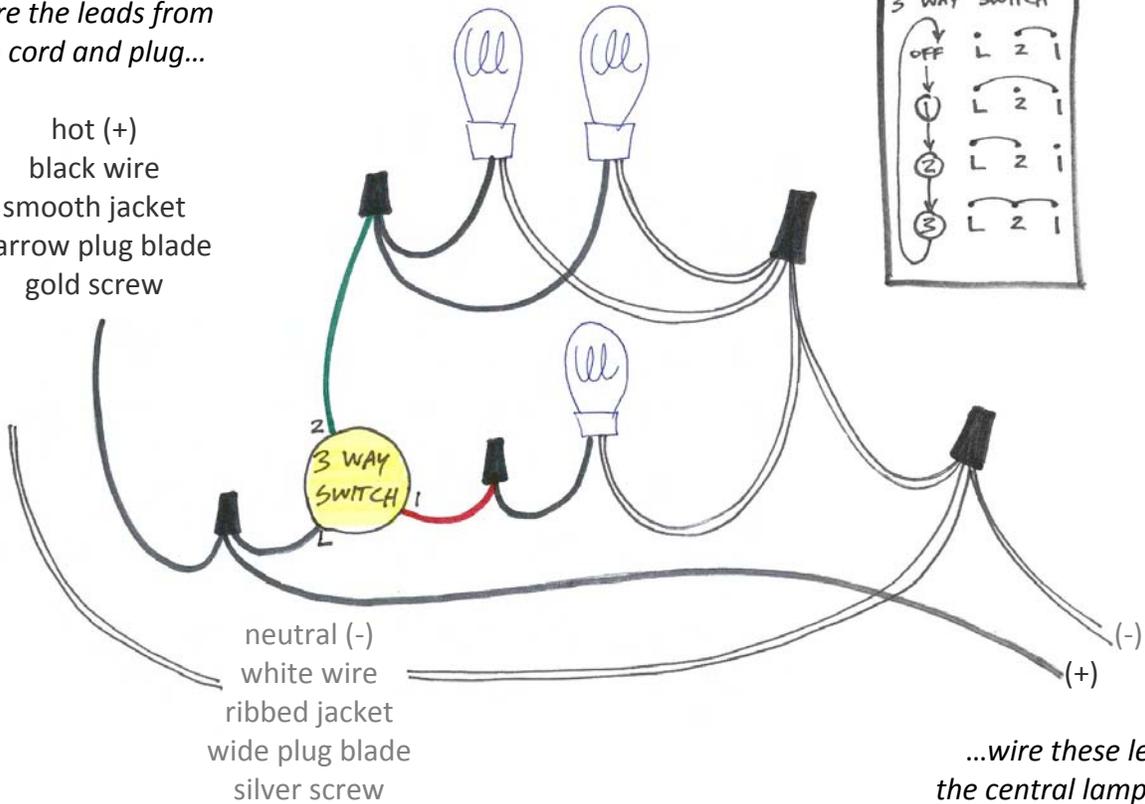
...and so forth up to 375W. Neat.

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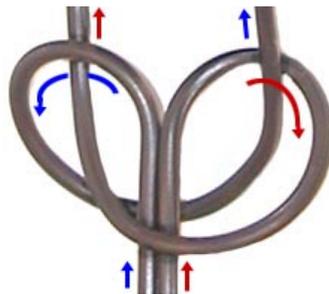
The diagram below illustrates how to wire the 3-way switch that controls the three candle lamps. Wire one end (hot/neutral pair) of this assembly to the central lamp holder and the other end to a standard lamp cord that plugs into a wall outlet. Use 16 gauge stranded THHN/THWN or TFFN wire and appropriately sized wire nuts to make the internal connections. Tie an Underwriters knot in the end of the lamp cord where it exits the lamp body to serve as a strain relief.

...these are the leads from the lamp cord and plug...

hot (+)
black wire
smooth jacket
narrow plug blade
gold screw



...wire these leads to the central lamp holder...



Underwriters knot