Installing 4-way Tele switches can be problematic, as the lever will sometimes not travel far enough to make or break a connection, before it reaches the end of the slot in the control plate.

In the illustration above, the lever has moved all the way forward to the end of the slot. At this point, if the connections that need to be made or broken have not been, because the lever has not moved forward far enough, then you’ll need to figure out a way to make the lever move further. One way is to enlarge the holes in the mounting plate slightly as shown above. Make them large enough to gain as much movement as possible, but not so large that the edges of the holes are not hidden by the screw heads.

As you can see in the bottom illustration, you allow the lever to move forward by moving the switch backward. This only buys a couple of degrees of additional lever movement, but it’s often enough to get the job done.

Another option is to lengthen the slot in the plate as shown at right above. This can be done with a thin file, like a nut-slotting file. Use only downstrokes, filing from the top of the plate down and through, so that you don’t lift the plating around the slot edge. This action will expose the base material (usually brass) around the slot.

Our illustrations move the switch rearward, in order to gain more forward lever travel. Your situation might be reversed, in which case you’d reverse our actions, moving the switch forward in order to gain rearward lever travel.

Finally, another option is to modify the switch, rather than the plate. In the illustration below you’ll see half circles machined into the switch lever, which allow it to move further in each direction before being constrained by the slot. This can be done with a milling machine (if you have it), or a file, Dremel, belt sander, whatever you have.