

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANADA & USA

THIS PORTION OF THE MANUAL CONTAINS IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE OPTIMATE 7 12V-24V BATTERY CHARGER. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT EACH TIME, BEFORE USING THE CHARGER, YOU READ AND EXACTLY FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

# Automatic charger for 12 & 24V lead-acid batteries DO NOT USE FOR NICH, NIMH, LI-ION OR NON-RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES.

- 1. CAUTION: CLASS II APPLIANCE. DO NOT CONNECT TO GROUND.
- 2 Do not expose charger to rain or snow
- Use of an attachment not recommended or sold by the battery charger manufacturer may result in a risk of fire, electric shock, or injury to persons.
- 4. To reduce risk of damage to electric plug and cord, pull by plug rather than cord when disconnecting charger.
- 5. An extension cord should not be used unless absolutely necessary. Use of improper extension cord could result in a risk of fire and electric shock. If extension cord must be used make sure that:
  - a) pins on plug of extension cord are the same number, size and shape as those of plug on charger.
  - b) the extension cord is properly wired and in good electrical condition, and
  - c) the conductor wire size is large enough for the AC ampere rating of the charger as specified in the table below.

AC INPUT RATING IN AMPERES		LENGTH OF CORD,	AWG SIZE
Equal to or greater than But less than		FEET (m)	OF CORD
2A	3A	25 (17.6) 50 (15.2) 100 (30.5)	18 18 14

- 6. Do not operate charger with damaged cord or plug replace the cord or plug immediately.
- Do not operate charger if it has received a sharp blow, been dropped, or otherwise damaged in any way; take it to a qualified serviceman.
- Do not disassemble charger; take it to a qualified serviceman when service or repair is required. Incorrect reassembly may result in a risk of electric shock or fire.
- To reduce risk of electric shock, unplug the charger from outlet before attempting any maintenance or cleaning. Turning off controls will not reduce this risk. Clean only with slightly moist, not wet, cloth. Do not use solvents.
- 10.WARNING RISK OF EXPLOSIVE GASES.
  - a) WORKING IN VICINITY OF A LEAD-ACID BATTERY IS DANGEROUS. BATTERIES GENERATE EXPLOSIVE GASES DURING NORMAL BATTERY OPERATION. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS EACH TIME YOU USE THE CHARGER.
  - b) To reduce risk of battery explosion, follow these instructions and those published by the battery manufacturer and manufacturer of any equipment you intend to use in vicinity of the battery. Review cautionary marking on these products and on engine.

## 11. PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS.

- a) Someone should be within range of your voice OR close enough to come to your aid when you work near a lead-acid battery.
- b) Have plenty of fresh water and soap nearby in case battery acid contacts skin, clothing or eyes.
- c) Wear complete eye protection and clothing protection. Avoid touching eyes while working near battery.
- d) If battery acid contacts or enters eye, flood eye with cold running water for at least 10 minutes and get medical attention immediately. If battery acid contacts skin or clothing, wash immediately with soap and water. If acid enters an eye, immediately flood eye with running cold water for at least 10 minutes and get medical attention immediately.
- e) NEVER smoke or allow a spark or flame in vicinity of battery or engine.
- f) Be extra cautious to reduce risk of dropping a metal tool onto battery. It might spark or short-circuit battery or other electrical part that may cause explosion.
- g) Remove personal metal items such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, and watches when working with a lead-acid battery. A lead-acid battery can produce a short-circuit current high enough to weld a ring or the like to metal, causing a severe burn.
- i) NEVER charge a frozen battery.

## 12. PREPARING TO CHARGE

a) If necessary to remove battery from vehicle to charge, always remove grounded terminal from battery first. Make sure all accessories in the vehicle are off, so as not to cause an arc.

- b) Be sure area around battery is well ventilated while battery is being charged. Gas can be forcefully blown away by using a piece of cardboard or other non-metallic material as a fan.
- c) Clean battery terminals. Be careful to keep corrosion from coming in contact with eyes.
- d) Add distilled water in each cell until battery acid reaches level specified by battery manufacturer. This helps purge excessive gas from cells. Do not overfill. For a battery without cell caps, such as valve regulated lead acid (VRLA) or absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries, carefully follow manufacturer's recharging instructions.
- e) Study all battery manufacturer's specific precautions such as removing or not removing cell caps while charging and recommended rates of charge.
- f) Determine voltage of battery by referring to vehicle or other user's manual and BEFORE MAKING THE BATTERY CONNECTIONS, MAKE SURE THAT THE VOLTAGE OF THE BATTERY YOU ARE GOING TO CHARGE MATCHES THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE OF THE CHARGER. NOTE: This charger has an automatic safety feature that will not allow charging if battery voltage exceeds 15V when 12V charging mode is selected or battery voltage is below 18V if 24V charging is selected.
- 13. CHARGER LOCATION.
- a) Locate charger as far away from battery as DC cables permit.
- b) Never place charger directly above battery being charged; gases from battery will corrode and damage the charger.
- c) Never allow battery acid to drip on charger when reading gravity or filling battery. Do not operate charger in a closed-in area or restrict ventilation in any way.
- d) Do not set a battery on top of charger. IMPORTANT : Place charger on a hard flat surface or mount onto a vertical surface.

  Do not place on plastic, leather or textile surface.

### 14. DC CONNECTION PRECAUTIONS

- a) Connect and disconnect DC output clips only after setting any charger switches to off position and removing AC cord from electric outlet. Never allow clips to touch each other. However, should this happen, no damage will result to the charger circuit & the automatic charging programme will just reset to «start».
- b) Attach clips to battery and chassis as indicated in 15(e), 15(f), and 16(b) through 16(d).

NOTE: This battery charger has an automatic safety feature that will prevent it from operating if the battery has been inversely connected. Set charger switches to off position and/or remove AC cord from electrical outlet, disconnect the battery clips, then reconnect correctly according to the instructions below.

- 15. FOLLOW THESE STEPS WHEN BATTERY IS INSTALLED IN VEHICLE. A SPARK NEAR A BATTERY MAY CAUSE BATTERY EXPLOSION. TO REDUCE RISK OF A SPARK NEAR BATTERY :
- a) Position AC and DC cords so as to reduce risk of damage by hood, door or moving engine part.
- b) Stay clear of fan -blades, belts, pulleys, and other parts that can cause injury to persons.
- c) Check polarity of battery posts. POSITIVE (POS, P, +) battery post usually has larger diameter than NEGATIVE (NEG, N, -) post.
- d) Determine which post of battery is grounded (connected) to the chassis. If negative post is grounded to chassis (as in most vehicles), see (e). If positive post is grounded to the chassis, see (f).
- e) For negative-grounded vehicle, connect POSITIVE (RED) clip from battery charger to POSITIVE (POS, P, +)
- ungrounded post of battery. Connect NEGATIVE (BLACK) clip to vehicle chassis or engine block away from battery.
- Do not connect clip to carburetor, fuel lines, or sheet-metal body parts. Connect to a heavy gage metal part of the frame or engine block.
- f) For positive-grounded vehicle, connect NEGATIVE (BLACK) clip from battery charger to NEGATIVE (NEG. N , -) ungrounded post of battery. Connect POSITIVE (RED) clip to vehicle chassis or engine block away from battery. Do not connect clip to carburetor, fuel lines, or sheet-metal body parts. Connect to a heavy gage metal part of the frame or engine block.
- g) When disconnecting charger, turn switches to off, disconnect AC cord, remove clip from vehicle chassis, and then remove clip from battery terminal.
- h) See operating instructions for length of charge information.
- 16. FOLLOW THESE STEPS WHEN BATTERY IS OUTSIDE VEHICLE. A SPARK NEAR THE BATTERY MAY CAUSE BATTERY EXPLOSION. TO REDUCE RISK OF A SPARK NEAR BATTERY:
- a) Check polarity of battery posts. POSITIVE (POS, P, +) battery post usually has a larger diameter than NEGATIVE (NEG,N, -) post.
- b) This battery charger has an automatic safety feature that will prevent it from operating if the battery has been inversely connected. The charger does not allow charge current unless a voltage of at least 2V is sensed for a 12V battery and 4V for a 24V battery.
- c) Connect POSITIVE (RED) charger clip to POSITIVE (POS, P, +) post of battery.
- d) Connect NEGATIVE (BLACK) charger clip to NEGATIVE (NEG, N, -) battery post of the battery.
- e) Do not face battery when making final connection.
- f) When disconnecting charger, always do so in reverse sequence of connecting procedure & break first connection while as far away from battery as practical.
- g) A marine (boat) battery must be removed & charged on shore. To charge it on board requires equipment specially designed for marine use.



## AUTOMATIC DIAGNOSTIC CHARGER FOR 12V LEAD-ACID BATTERIES FROM 3Ah TO 400Ah or 24V LEAD-ACID BATTERIES UP TO 200Ah

DO NOT USE FOR NICH, NIMH, LI-ION OR NON-RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES.

IMPORTANT: READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE CHARGER

This appliance can be used by children aged from 8 years and above and persons with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities or lack of experience and knowledge if they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of the appliance in a safe way and understand the hazards

involved. Children shall not play with the appliance. Cleaning and user maintenance shall not be made by children without supervision.

SAFETY WARNING AND NOTES: Batteries emit EXPLOSIVE GASES - prevent flame or sparks near batteries. Disconnect AC power supply before making or breaking DC/battery connections. Battery acid is highly corrosive. Wear protective clothing and eyewear and avoid contact. In case of accidental contact, wash immediately with soap and water. Check that the battery posts are not loose; if so, have the battery professionally assessed. If the battery posts are corroded, clean with a copper wire brush; if greasy or dirty, clean with a rag dampened in detergent. Use the charger only if the input and output leads and connectors are in good, undamaged condition. If the input cable is damaged, it is essential to have it replaced without delay by the manufacturer, his authorised service agent or a qualified workshop, to avoid danger. Protect your charger from acid and acid fumes and from damp and humid conditions both during use and in storage. Damage resulting from corrosion, oxidation or internal electrical short-circuiting is not covered by warranty. Distance the charger from the battery during charging to avoid contamination by or exposure to acid or acidic vapours. If using it in the horizontal orientation, place the charger on a hard, flat surface, but NOT on plastic, textile or leather. Use the fixing holes provided in the enclosure base to attach the charger to any convenient, sound vertical surface.

**EXPOSURE TO LIQUIDS:** This charger is designed to withstand exposure to liquids accidentally spilled or splashed onto the casing from above, or to light rainfall. Prolonged exposure to falling rain is inadvisable and longer service life will be obtained by minimizing such exposure. Failure of the charger due to oxidation resulting from the eventual penetration of liquid into the electronic components, connectors or plugs, is not covered by warranty.

## **CONNECTING THE CHARGER TO THE BATTERY**

- 1. Disconnect AC power supply before making or breaking DC / battery connections.
- 2. If charging a battery in the vehicle or craft with the battery clips, before making connections, first check that the battery clips can be safely and securely positioned clear from surrounding wiring, metal tubing or the chassis. Make connections in the following order:

First connect to the battery terminal not connected to the chassis (normally positive), then connect the other battery clip (normally negative) to the chassis well away from the battery and fuel line. Always disconnect in reverse sequence.

- 3. When charging a battery out of the vehicle or craft with the battery clips, place it in a well ventilated area. Connect the charger to the battery: RED clamp to POSITIVE (POS, P or +) terminal and BLACK clamp to NEGATIVE (NEG, N or -) terminal. Make sure the connections are firm and secure. Good contact is important.
- 4. If the battery is deeply discharged (and possibly sulphated), remove from the vehicle or craft and inspect the battery before connecting the charger for a recovery attempt. Visually check the battery for mechanical defects such as a bulging or cracked casing, or signs of electrolyte leakage. If the battery has filler caps and the plates within the cells can be seen from the outside, examine the battery carefully to try to determine if any cells seem different to the others (for example, with white matter between the plates, plates touching). If mechanical defects are apparent do not attempt to charge the battery, have the battery professionally assessed.
- 5. If the battery is new, before connecting the charger read the battery manufacturer's safety and operational instructions carefully. If applicable, carefully and exactly follow acid filling instructions.

## PROCEEDING TO CHARGE

### **CHARGING TIME**

Charge time on a flat but otherwise undamaged battery: a 100Ah 12V / 50Ah 24V battery should take no more than about 24 hours to progress to the self-discharge check.

Deep-discharged batteries may take significantly longer, a full charge may not be achieved within the 72 hour charge safety limit.

\*2 : The charge voltage is inversely regulated according to ambient temperature i.e. voltage is increased at lower temperature, decreased at higher temperature. Adjustment: -0.004V / cell / °C above or below 20°C (68°F).

If voltage selection in STEP 1 matches the expected battery voltage and there are no connection errors as described in STEP 2, then fully automatic operation starts from STEP 3.

# STEP 1 Voltage Selection



## LED #1a / 1b: Confirms AC power supply to the charger and selected battery voltage.

Changing voltage selection: Disconnect charger from battery. Place and hold finger on Select-TOUCH sensor. The selected voltage LED brightens to confirm touch. (i.e. if '12V' was on, then '12V' will brighten).

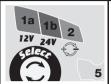
After 3 seconds the voltage selection changes, then SAVE (#3), CHARGE (#4) and TEST (#6, 7, 8) LEDs flash twice to confirm selection is in memory.

LED #1a => 12V

LED #1b => 24V

NOTE: Selection remains even if AC power is lost.

## STEP 2 Protection



### Charger will not proceed without user interaction.

LED #2 REVERSE POLARITY: Lights when the battery connections are incorrect. The charger is electronically protected so no damage will result, and the output will remain disabled until the connections are corrected.

### **VOLTAGE SAFETY CHECK:**

## 12V (#1a) and 24V LEDs (#1b) alternate and green test LED (#6) lights. 12V is selected and a battery with voltage exceeding 15V is connected.

Connected battery may be 24V.

Action: Disconnect battery, select 24V.

# MAINTAIN 8 7 6 TEST

## 24V (#1b) and 12V (#1a) alternate and red test LED (#8) lights.

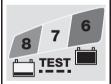
## 24V (#1b) selected and a battery with voltage below 18V is connected:

The connected battery may be 12V or it may be a deep discharged 24V battery. Action: Physically check battery. If nominal voltage is 12V, disconnect battery and select 12V.

If nominal voltage is 24V, hold finger on Select-TOUCH. After 5 seconds program will proceed to STEP 3.

# STEP 3 TEST before charge





TEST LEDs #6/7/8 indicate the battery condition prior to charging. Consult the table below to match TEST LED indication to an estimated state of charge percentage (SOC%).

## During the test:

STEP 6 OPTIMIZE minimum charge time is set according to the test result, varying between 10 minutes for a battery with 80% or higher state of charge to 120 minutes for a battery with 40% or less state of charge.

Ambient temperature is measured to determine charge voltage parameters.

Charging commences after 10 seconds.

**LED #8 (RED) flashing:** Battery voltage is very low. Pulses are injected to check for a short circuit or connected circuitry drawing high current. Once the indication becomes steady for up to 10 seconds charging will commence. If not, disconnect the battery from connected circuitry and try again.

## STEP 4



## The SAVE mode engages if the battery state of charge was less than 50% or the battery was diagnosed as sulphated (as tested in STEP 3).

Charge time: Minimum 15 minutes, maximum 2 hours.

A recondition charge is applied; current is delivered in pulses to prepare the battery to accept normal charge.

#### STFP 5 LED #4: YELLOW The CHARGE mode engages if the battery state of charge was 50% or higher (as tested in STEP 3) or once the battery has been sufficiently CHARGE recovered during STEP 4. OPTIMIZE The **ampmatic**™ charge current monitoring and control program automatically CHARGE determines the most efficient rate of charge current for the connected battery. according to its state of charge, state of health, and electrical storage capacity. SAVE Maximum charge current: 12V battery => 5A 24V battery => 2.5A The charge voltage is inversely regulated according to ambient temperature i.e. voltage is increased at lower temperature, decreased at higher temperature. Adjustment: -0.04V / cell / °C above or below 20°C (68°F). STEP 6 LED #5: YELLOW The OPTIMIZE mode starts when the voltage has reached 14.4V / 28.8V for the first time during CHARGE mode. OPTIMI7F The **ampmatic**™ current control program now delivers pulses of current to equalise OPTIMIZE the individual cells within the battery and optimizes charge level. CHARGE Charging should complete within the minimum charge time set during STEP 3, but if the battery requires further charging the program will extend OPTIMIZE mode up to a SAVE maximum of 2 hours. NOTE: Charge time is usually extended if there is higher than expected current draw by connected circuitry or battery health is less than optimal. For safety reasons there is an overall charge time limit of 72 hours for STEP 4. 5 and 6. STFP 7 LED #6 FLASHING TEST after charge: Delivery of current to the battery is interrupted for 30 minutes\* to allow the program to determine the battery's ability **TEST** after to retain charge. charge \* IF the result in STEP 3 was RED (LED #8. indicating a deep discharged battery) the voltage retention test is extended to 12 hours to confirm battery health. The TEST result (indicated on LED # 6, 7, 8) is adjusted in real time according to the measured battery voltage. Consult the "EARLY WARNING OF BATTERY PROBLEMS" table on page 2 to match TEST LED indication to an estimated state of charge percentage (SOC%). More information is provided in the section "NOTES ON TEST RESULTS". MAINTENANCE CHARGE: LED #6 / 7 / 8 steady on STFP 8 LED #6 / 7 / 8 ON according to final voltage measured at termination of STEP 7. **OptiMATE** Float voltage setting: For 12V batteries: 13.6V nominal at 20°C (68°F), smart For 24V batteries: 27.2V nominal at 20°C (68°F). MAINTAIN The float voltage is inversely regulated according to ambient temperature; i.e., voltage is increased at lower temperature, decreased at higher temperature. Adjustment: -0.04V / cell / °C above or below 20°C (68°F). Continuous float maintenance charge will be applied to the battery if the charger sensed that connected circuitry has a current draw exceeding 200mA, otherwise the For batteries with a good charger proceeds with the standard maintenance mode. state of health LED #6 The standard maintenance mode consists of 30 minute float charge periods followed by (green) will remain on. and alternating with 30 minute 'rest' periods, during which there is no charge delivered. This "50% duty cycle" prevents loss of electrolyte in sealed batteries and minimizes Exception: STD wet cell gradual loss of water from the electrolyte in batteries with filler caps, and thereby batteries with filler caps contributes significantly to optimizing the service life of irregularly or seasonally used

**TEMP** 

have a lower fully charged

voltage: LED #6 remains

on together with LED #7.

batteries.

For accurate temperature regulated charging and long term maintenance place OptiMate as close as possible to the battery under charge. For example, if the battery is within an aircraft stored outside and the OptiMate is used for long term maintenance of the battery, place the charger

SULFATION, further extending battery power and life.

During "float charge" a continuous LOW CURRENT PULSE IS DELIVERED TO PREVENT

If the OptiMate senses the battery has lost charge the program will revert back to STEP 5 (CHARGE).

inside the aircraft or battery storage compartment so that charging is adjusted according to the same ambient temperature that the battery would experience.

VERY FLAT NEGLECTED BATTERIES: If the battery is deeply discharged (and possibly sulfated), remove from the vehicle or equipment and inspect the battery before connecting the charger for a recovery attempt.

The charger's recovery mode may not engage if it senses that the battery is still connected to a circuit which effectively offers a lower electrical resistance than the battery on its own. However, if the deep-discharged battery is not removed for recovery, neither battery nor vehicle or equipment electronics will be damaged. Pay particularly close attention to the following: A battery left deep-discharged for an extended period may develop permanent damage in one or more cells. Such batteries may heat up excessively during high current charging.

Monitor the battery temperature during the first hour, then hourly there-after. Check for unusual signs, such as bubbling or leaking electrolyte, heightened activity in one cell compared to others, or hissing sounds. If at any time the battery is uncomfortably hot to touch or you notice any unusual signs. DISCONNECT THE CHARGER IMMEDIATELY.

### **NOTES ON TEST RESULTS:**

- 1. For any test result other than green #6 (or green #6 and yellow #7 together if the battery is a STD type with filler caps), disconnect the battery from the electrical system it supports, and reconnect the OptiMate. If a better test result is now obtained, this suggests that the power losses are partly due to an electrical problem in the electrical system and not in the battery itself. If the poor result persists, you are advised to take the battery to a professional service workshop equipped with professional equipment for a more thorough investigation.
- 2. If the red LED #8 alone, or the yellow #7 and red LED #8 indicate together (or yellow LED alone for a sealed battery), a significant problem exists. The red / yellow+red LEDs mean that after being charged the battery's voltage is not being sustained or that despite recovery attempts the battery was irrecoverable. This may be due to a defect in the battery itself, such as a short-circuited cell or total sulphation, or, in the case of a battery still connected to the electrical system it supports, the red LED #8 may be signalling a loss of current through deteriorated wiring or a degraded switch or contact, or in-circuit current-consuming accessories. A sudden load being switched on while the charger is connected can also cause the battery voltage to dip significantly.
- 3. GOOD TEST RESULT, but the battery cannot deliver sufficient power: Permanent damage within the battery may be causing excessive self discharge that is not detected within the test period of 12 hours. Disconnect the battery from the OptiMate. After at least 48 hours reconnect and observe the result during the TEST BEFORE CHARGE.

MAINTAINING A BATTERY FOR EXTENDED PERIODS: The OptiMate will maintain a battery whos basic condition is good, for months at a time. At least once every two weeks, check that the connections between the charger and battery are secure, and, in the case of batteries with filler caps on each cell, disconnect the battery from the charger, check the level of the electrolyte and if necessary, top up the cells (with distilled water, NOT acid), then reconnect. When handling batteries or in their vicinity, always take care to observe the SAFETY WARNINGS above.

## ECO POWER SAVING MODE WHEN THE CHARGER IS CONNECTED TO AC SUPPLY:

The power converter switches to ECO mode when the charger is not connected to a battery resulting in a very low power draw of less than 0.5W, equivalent to power consumption of 0.012 kWh per day. When a battery is connected to the charger power consumption depends on the current demand of the battery and its connected vehicle / electronic circuitry. After the battery has been charged and the charger is in long term maintenance charge mode (to keep the battery at 100% charge) the total power consumption is estimated to be 0.024kWh or less per day.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

TecMate (International) SA, B-3300 Tienen, Belgium, offers this limited warranty to the original purchaser at retail of this product. This limited warranty is not transferable. TecMate (International) warrants this battery charger for three years from date of purchase at retail against defective material or workmanship. If such should occur the unit will be repaired or replaced at the option of the manufacturer. It is the obligation of the purchaser to forward the unit together with proof of purchase (see NOTE), transportation or mailing costs prepaid, to the manufacturer or its authorized representative. This limited warranty is void if the product is misused, subjected to careless handling, or repaired by anyone other than the factory or its authorized representative. The manufacturer makes no warranty other than this limited warranty and expressly excludes any implied warranty including any warranty for consequential damages.

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NOTE: Details at www.tecmate.com/warranty.

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## WARRANTY in Canada, USA, Central America and South America:

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More information on TecMate products can be found at www.tecmate.com.