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DEPARTMENT

BLOOD SWEAT & GEARS

By Steve Blancard

BATTERY MINDER FROM VDC ELECTRONICS

It's not often that I review a product, but a few months ago I came across something that really impressed me. Its called Battery MINDER, made by VDC Electronics. This is the newest generation battery charger and

surpasses anything else on the market. We have all seen the floating type battery chargers that turn themselves on/off as required to keep a battery fully charged.

These were a great step forward from the standard battery or trickle charger that if left unattended for

days or weeks could boil your battery to death. The floating charger senses when a battery is fully charged then shuts itself off. When a battery sits idle it self-discharges over time. A floating charger senses the decreased voltage and turns itself on as required to maintain the optimum charge.



The number one cause of early battery failure is sulphation. This occurs when a battery is over or under charged or when it sits idle. Crystals of lead sulphate form on the lead plates preventing the battery from being fully charged. Unfortunately, it is a fact of life that our grand old machines often sit for weeks or months at a time without being ridden. It doesn't take long for the insidious sulphation process to begin taking its toll. A battery that last five to six years or more may fail in a year or two because of this. A floating charger will go a long way towards heading this off, but unless it is used all the time and the charging system operates optimally all the time, inevitably sulphation will take place.

This is where the Battery MINDER shines. Every element known has what is called a "magnetic moment" at a resonant frequency, that is, a point at which the chemical bonds that hold molecules together to form a crystal can be broken. The Battery MINDER uses a simple method of generating a required resonant frequency, 3.26 Mhz to breakdown the lead sulphate crystals. A simple press of the de-sulphation button starts the fully automatic de-sulphation process. High

frequency pulses attack the sulphate crystals, breaking them down and allowing the battery to again accept a full charge. Depending on how sulphated a battery is, this process can take anywhere from several days to several months. The good thing is that de-sulphating mode can be kept on indefinitely with no ill effects to the battery.

This is not to say that every battery can be saved. Physical damage, contamination, shorted cells or extreme sulphation may make the battery beyond the point of resurrection. Included with the Battery MINDER is a hydrometer and directions on how to test your battery to see if it is a candidate for re-conditioning. I have been using a Battery MINDER on several batteries for about 4 months and seen a notable improvement in their performance. The Battery MINDER is available in 6 or 12 volt models and comes with a quick disconnect cable that can be inconspicuously attached to your battery terminals, standard terminal clamps, hydrometer, comprehensive directions and a 5 year, no exclusions warranty. Suggested retail price is \$59.95. For more information contact VDC Electronics at (800) 379-5579 or on the web at www.vdcelectronics.com.