

Protect Vehicle Battery Life




OPERATORS, YOUR VEHICLE HAS A VALUABLE FEATURE THAT SHOWS THE CONDITION OF ITS BATTERIES.

BY SIMPLY TURNING ON A POWER SWITCH AND LOOKING OBSERVANTLY, YOU CAN DETERMINE THE CHARGING LEVEL AND ACTIVITY OF THE BATTERY CHARGING SYSTEM.

BY NOW, YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED THIS FEATURE IS THE BAT-GEN INDICATOR.

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE BAT-GEN INDICATOR ON YOUR INSTRUMENT PANEL CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE WHEREVER YOU USE YOUR VEHICLE.

BUT YOU'VE GOTTA KNOW HOW TO "READ" THAT GAUGE SO YOU CAN TIP OFF YOUR MECHANIC TO BATTERY TROUBLE...

...AND NOT GET STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!



HERE'S HOW...



TURN OFF ALL ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS, LIKE YOUR LIGHTS AND RADIO.

What Yellow, Red, and Green Mean

Watch the gauge when you turn the power switch to ON and before you crank up the engine. The gauge needle should land in the yellow section, or between 22-26 volts. If the needle goes into the red section at the left of the gauge, your batteries are weak, defective, need charging, or there's a short in the system.

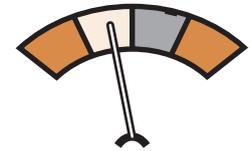
Now, crank up the engine at idle rpm. If the needle hangs to the left after you've started the engine, one battery could have a bad cell.

AFTER THE ENGINE STARTS, RUN IT AT FAST IDLE—ABOUT 1,500 RPM, FOR AT LEAST 20 MINUTES.

THE BATTERY CHARGING SYSTEM IS WORKING FINE IF THE NEEDLE SETTLES AT ABOUT 28.5 VOLTS, IN THE GREEN SECTION.

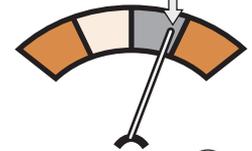
Yellow: 22-26 volts

Charge is OK to start engine



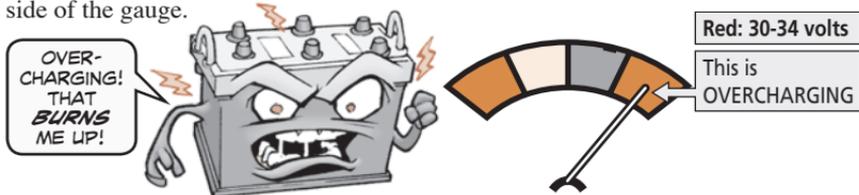
Green: 26-30 volts

Correct charging is about 28.5 volts



Overcharging

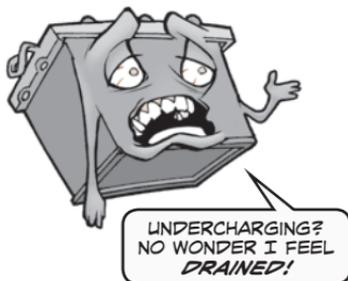
Overcharging is the culprit when the needle hangs in the red section on the right side of the gauge.



If the gauge shows a high rate of charge after the engine's been running for 30 minutes, there's a good chance the batteries are being cooked to death. Get your mechanic to check out the charging system.

Undercharging

Undercharging is the problem when the needle settles well below that 28.5-volt mark, even though it's still in the green.



If your BAT-GEN gauge indicates any of these problems, get your mechanic to check out the charging system.

Tester Option

Besides using the BAT-GEN indicator to determine your battery's health, consider using battery testers. These small devices test your vehicle's lead-acid batteries to ensure they're good.

