

CRANKING AND CRANKING CROAKS BATTERIES



Dear Editor,

Please emphasize to all operators of vehicles—and anything else that has to be started on battery power—that cranking and cranking is not a good starting solution.

One of two things will happen if you endlessly crank the engine: Either the starter will burn out or the batteries will completely drain.

You can only recharge batteries so many times before they're permanently dead and must be replaced. We've replaced a lot of batteries in the last six months, mostly because of excessive cranking. It doesn't take long for the bucks to add up.

Remember these rules to save money: Never crank the starter for more than 10 seconds at a time and give it a minute to cool off between starts. If the engine doesn't kick into life after three tries, call in your mechanic.

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Editor's note: Great advice, Sergeant Foster. Mechanics, remember charging time and current when recharging batteries. Overcharging and overheating are big battery killers, too. When charging's done, use a quality load tester or capacitance battery tester to check. If the battery passes, keep it. If it fails, replace it.