

WINTER BATTERY STORAGE

By Otto Pope

I have been using the same tried and true methods to store my MG batteries, for the winter, for many years. Take the batteries out of the cars, clean them up, carry them into the basement, and charge them once or twice each month. Worked great for many years.

However, the last few years my wife and I have been spending two or three winter months in Florida. This left my batteries at home with no one to charge them. We also leave our Lincoln LS at home, in the garage, for the winter. It has so much electronic stuff (computers?) that if it is not driven for two weeks the life is sucked out of the gigantic battery in the trunk.

I solved my MG, Lincoln, and tractor battery charging problems by buying 4 devices called 120 Volt Automatic Battery Float Chargers They put out a very small charge only when the battery needs it. They work on batteries from 5 to 125 amps. I have seen them in auto supply stores for \$30.00 and up. I bought mine from Harbor Freight for \$10.00 each.

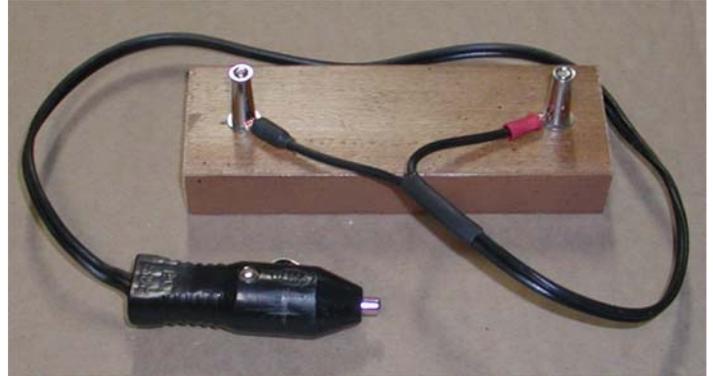
I hooked them up to the batteries and plugged them in last November, disconnected them in April, and started all of the vehicles. The batteries were all fully charged. Great little device. I bought a few extra chargers and will be selling them at the next 2 or 3 Club Meetings for \$10.00.



The trickle charger uses a wall-block transformer and an electronic module to regulate the charge rate.

More on Trickle Charging

I use the same charger as Otto, but unlike him, I don't have the luxury of being a "snowbird" and, weather permitting, use my MGB roadster from time to time during the winter. I needed a way to be able to easily connect



the charger to the car without having to lift the rear battery cover panel each time. To solve the problem I bought a cigarette lighter style plug from RadioShack for a couple of dollars, added a short 2 core cable and joined that, using color coded ring terminals, to 2 metal posts attached to an old piece of wood and spaced sufficiently far apart so the charger's alligator clips cannot touch one another. Now I can simply push the connector into the lighter socket to charge the battery.

By the way, at my electricity rates, leaving this charger on 24/7 costs about 80 cents per month.

Rick Astley