

FOR YOUR INFORMATION !

The Care and Feeding of NiCd Batteries

AVOID OVERCHARGING - A battery will accept a predetermined amount of electrical current, varying by cell size. Further introduction of current dissipates from the cell in the form of heat. Continual overcharging will create pressure in the cell. With extreme pressure the cell will vent, which shortens the life expectancy of the cell.

When using a quick charger the prescribed recharging time should be carefully observed and the battery should be touched at frequent intervals to check for excessive heat build-up. Slow charging is always preferable to quick-charging for ensuring maximum battery life. If available, the use of a discharge feature is recommended occasionally. This prevents "memory" from developing. The surest way to guard against overcharging is to use a charger that automatically shuts off when capacity is reached. The next best alternative is to use a charger that gradually reduces its output as the battery approaches its capacity. Those chargers that have built-in overcharge protection should be used with careful attention to the recommended charging time. Any significant heat build-up in the battery should alert you to disconnect the charger or reduce the charging rate. If a battery does not hold a charge as it should, do not attempt to recharge. Such a battery should be checked and, if necessary, replaced.

PROPER USAGE - Proper charging and discharging, known as cycling, will extend the life of a battery. A battery's performance is related to the manner in which the battery is used. It is important not to shallow discharge repeatedly as this could create memory. Memory is an effect that will decrease the capacity of the cell. Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) or Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries do not have the memory problem.

KEEP BATTERIES AWAY FROM HEAT - Batteries should be fully charged before storing and they should be kept in a cool, dry place. Care should be taken not to leave a battery pack inside a closed-up vehicle or car trunk in warm weather or to subject a battery to prolonged exposure to intense sunlight. If you are out in the field, especially in the summer, and your equipment is exposed to extreme temperatures and sunlight, we suggest: 1) try to store your batteries in a cool place, i.e.: cooler; 2) wrap them in heat resistant plastic wrap; and 3) whenever possible keep them out of direct sunlight. Subjecting batteries to extreme temperatures and sunlight can have many of the same destructive effects as overcharging.

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