

Tech Tips 001

A help series

Dedicated to the dissemination of Detail model building methods and techniques.

Materials and methods presented here are not intended as the best or only solutions to the modeling challenge(s) discussed, rather as methods and procedures which have a proven record of success in actual use. Please keep experimenting with new materials and techniques as this is the only way to expand the fields of knowledge.

by John E. McCoy Sr. NAR-15731 12/29/96 - revised 10-2001

Gel Cell Battery Charger for about 12.00 bucks. **and battery storage tips**

How many of you have a Gel Cell and no way to charge it? I have a simple and inexpensive way to solve the problem Make Your Own. many of you know me as MR. FIXIT, or the MACHINIST (If I can't make it I don't need it) HA! Well guys and gals this one YOU CAN DO.

Radio shack has 2 or 3 AC/DC adapters which will convert to a Gel Cell Charger very easily. Stock nos. are 273-1652 is a 12 volt 500ma unit for about \$10.50, they also have a 12 volt 1amp. unit cat. No 273-1613 for about \$ 22 bucks. and their are many other brands out there which you may have laying around the house gathering dust. Check out the closet before you buy.

Conversion is very easy with a pair of wire cutters and a pair of insulated micro or alligator clips. R/S Cat. No. 270-1545 6pr for about \$ 3.00

The wire connected to the phono plug is 2 conductor , you will notice one side of the Zip-cord wire has a white stripe, This is the Positive lead. Simply cut the phono plug off, separate a few inches of 2 wires, strip and solder on 2 alligator clips, Red to the white stripe lead and black to the other. The adaptor is now a charger.

If the adapter you have for some reason does not have the White stripe you can still use it. you will need a Multimeter to determine which is the "Hot" positive lead. this is almost always the center part of the plug but check it before soldering on the clips.

I have used as small as 12volt 200 ma adapters with complete success charging my 26amp hour Gel Cell in about 12 hours.

Many of you have the Large Orange Gel Cells donated by Tom Lyon a couple of years ago these are 26 amp hour, while no battery lasts forever these and all the sealed gel cells have very long active lives, compared to lead acid wet cell CAR batteries. If you will systematically remember to charge your battery after EACH launch it will serve you for many launch seasons, It is especially important to give your batteries, (Gel or Wet Cell) a good charge BEFORE storing away for the winter. Even more so if the battery is stored in an unheated garage or shed. Cold zaps energy very quickly.

Don't sit your battery directly on concrete, place it in a cardboard box with a couple layer of newspaper as an insulator, or on a couple of wood strips, or in a plastic battery box. any of these will help to prolong the usable life of your battery

Hope these tips help. Keep um flyin, fully charged.

John