

## newbie DC question

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Greetings.

I've been studying electronics on my own for a little while now, and there's one basic concept I can't seem to get my head around. I apologize in advance for the really basic question, but I just can't find the answer and it's keeping me up at night.

I thought I understood DC, at least at a primitive level. In circuits with a battery, things make sense – there is a positive and a negative, current flows from the negative through the circuit to the positive... makes sense.

Where I get lost is when I'm looking at a circuit with an AC to DC transformer. Typically, the output of this, after the rectifier, is a positive DC source, a negative DC source, and ground.

What *\*is\** this ground thing? Does current flow from the negative output to ground? From ground to the positive? Both? Neither? What the heck am I missing?

Most explanations I've read just say something to the effect of "ground being a reference, with the current being more negative or more positive than ground". Needless to say, I can't turn that into something I understand.

I appreciate any guidance anyone has to offer.

Thanks!

Rob Snyder