

## Re: Is it possible to combine two AC power circuits to double current? (limited household current problem)

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**From:** Rich Grise (*richgrise\_at\_example.net*)

**Date:** 02/19/05

Date: Sat, 19 Feb 2005 03:16:55 GMT

On Fri, 18 Feb 2005 15:44:14 -0800, Robert Monsen wrote:

> *Rich Grise wrote:*

>> *And, just for the sake of reduncancy, adding a battery and inverter is  
>> a really stupid idea. And even if you did want to use a battery and  
>> inverter for something else, don't use a car battery. Use a deep-cycle  
>> marine or RV battery.*

>>

> *Why exactly is it a stupid idea? Is it dangerous? Expensive? What's the  
> problem? Educate me.*

It's an unnecessary expenditure, and comes with all the pains in the ass concomitant with battery power.

> *30A inverters are relatively cheap, as are auto  
> batteries. Seems far safer than trying to merge two circuits.*

Merging two circuits is also stupid. And saying "use a car battery", I'm sorry to report, is also not a good idea, even if he was foolish enough to want to use a battery and inverter for a mill motor.

> *Hell, you*

> *don't even know how often or for how long he is using the thing. If he  
> uses it once a month, seems like a waste of money to have his circuits  
> upgraded and his wiring replaced.*

You didn't read the whole post. I said, if it's #12 or thinner, replace it with #10. #12 would probably hold up, but you want a safety margin. The reason for codes is that house fires are very expensive all the way around.

Heck, he could just run it the way it is, or get a breaker that's designed for a motor load and it'd work fine!

sci.electronics.basics: Re: Is it possible to combine two AC power circuits to double current? (limited household current problem)

I don't want him to burn his house down or electrocute himself, contrary to what you seem to have surmised here.

And I have replaced a circuit breaker panel – the whole panel, in an industrial setting, i.e., 240V 3-phase. And, if, as he mentioned, he has some experience with not getting electrocuted, it's almost trivial as far as technical competence is concerned.

On top of that, he says he wants to install a spa. He'll not only need a new panel, but probably have to call the electric company to see if he needs to get his service upgraded.

Thanks!

Rich

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