

Re: 12 Volt DC Battery as Power Source for Camping

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- *From:* beth.stover@xxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sun, 15 Jul 2007 13:32:03 -0700
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On Jul 15, 11:52 am, John <l...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sat, 14 Jul 2007 23:07:59 -0700, beth.sto...@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On Jul 14, 5:42 pm, "Tom Biasi" <tombiasi@*****optonline.net> wrote:

<beth.sto...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:1184457985.194717.226670@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I'm a total newbie to amps, volts, wattage.

I'm going on a camping trip into the desert for 2 weeks, so I've purchased a Gel Sealed Lead Acid battery rated for 35 AH. This will power a combination of DC and AC devices -- mostly fun 12 volt LED lights, my girlfriend's curling iron and music.

My plan is to attach a cigarette socket with alligator clips to the battery. From there I will be able to attach a variety of things including a DC/AC inverter. I understand that the inverter will draw extra power from my battery, so I'll keep that to a minimum.

Re: 12 Volt DC Battery as Power Source for Camping

Do you have any idea what a 12 volt 35AH battery weighs? The Universal Battery UB12350 is listed as 25 pounds. Spec sheet here: <http://www.batterywholesale.com/battery-store/proddetail.html?prodID=380>
Do you really want to put that on your back for hours? Maybe just have the "gotta have a curling iron" person walk around with that weight of books in a backpack for a couple of hours? Then add food, water and other essentials...

I'd suggest a smaller battery and a decent solar charger panel instead. If you're walking more than stopping during the day, two small batteries and two solar panels (one on each person, with the panel turned to the sun) might work better. If you'll be spending more time in place than walking, a larger panel that is selfsupporting can be set up to charge the battery during the day.

17 volts at 2.3 amps is easy, just get a universal laptop DC-DC converter (\$30-\$70), select the correct voltage, and put on the matching power plug. These are usually 80%-90% efficient, which is better than the DC-AC inverter.

If you must have electric curls, go to a camping/RV supply store and get a 12 volt curling iron. Then you won't need the DC-AC inverter with its extra weight and inefficiency (i.e., the battery will last longer). While you're at the store, ask for some help on packing - you're taking WAY too much stuff.

My wife and I spent 3 weeks in the UK with one piece of carry-on luggage and one small backpack each - we had room to pack our souvenirs (Scottish wool sweaters aren't small) and the things we brought back for other people.

John- Hide quoted text -

- Show quoted text -

There's more than one way to camp, people! This is sort of a special camping situation.

<http://www.burningman.com>

Thanks for the helpful replies.

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