

# Re: nimh replacement batteries for nicad cordless drill

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2008-03/msg03428.html>

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- *From:* Fred Bloggs <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 20 Mar 2008 09:53:08 -0400
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Phil Hobbs wrote:

Fred Bloggs wrote:

I had a craftsman 14.4v cordless drill that was in good shape except for the ni-cads losing their charge capacity. I jolted each one of the cells a few years ago and got great results at that time. Now that the problem resurfaced...I tried it again with no luck. Since NiMH cells were available, I decided to replace all the cells with these. For some reason both of the two packs never seem to get much of a charge. Is there something special these type packs need in terms of charging? Or is there something inherently missing by using a nicad charger on a NiMH battery pack?

Sounds like your charger is on the blink, and there was nothing wrong with your NiCd pack...

IIRC nickel hydride cells don't have the peak capacity of a similar NiCd, so they're not as well suited to things like drills, where you need lots and lots of torque for brief periods.

Cheers,

Re: nimh replacement batteries for nicad cordless drill

Phil Hobbs

I'm not sure about that, they were designed as a less toxic replacement for the NiCd market, they certainly come in large capacities and battery packs for tools. The only notable downside to the NiMH chemistry that I'm aware of is the relatively high self-discharge rate, but this is now overcome, see the Rayovac "hybrid" NiMH technology for example, right now available only in AA and AAA size.

This seems like a fairly comprehensive comparative survey and summary of NiMH power tool performance:

<http://www.eeb.org/activities/waste/overview-information-on-power-tools-NiMH-and-low-temperature-Sept2004>