



ATD-5492

500AMP BATTERY TESTER

Instruction Manual

The automotive electrical system consists of a battery, starter, solenoid (usually mounted on the starter), ignition switch, alternator with connecting cables and wires. All parts of the electrical system must be operating properly for a vehicle to provide dependable transportation. Whenever a component fails, the whole system should be checked to ensure that the failure was not caused by another part of the system.

This tester provides a simplified approach to test the battery and simplified check of the system. This helps ensure that you will be making only the necessary repairs.

To gain a complete understanding of how this tester works, and to derive the maximum benefits from this unit, we recommend reading through the entire instruction manual before doing any testing.

Equipment Needed

This tester is a basic tool for battery testing. The following test equipment items are recommended in order to facilitate complete and accurate results.

- Battery Charger
- Battery Clamp Spreader
- Battery Clamp Puller
- Battery Terminal Cleaner
- Hydrometer

Specifications

Carbon Pile 12 volt 500 Amp capacity

Volt Meter: Accurate 8-16 Volt scale

Amp Meter: 0-500 Amp Scale-Precise color coded, pass/fail indication.

Load Knob: Variable load

Load Clamps: 500 Amp rating with vinyl coated red and black handles and insulated jaws.

Safety

Carefully read all operating instructions before using the tester.

- Wear eye protection when working around batteries.
- Be sure each test is completed before removing load clamps to prevent arcing and potential explosion from battery gasses.
- Never remove load clamps while testing.
- Keep sparks, flames, or cigarettes away from batteries.
- Keep hair, hands, and clothing as well as tester leads and cords away from moving blades and belts.
- Provide adequate ventilation to remove car exhaust.
- In extremely cold temperatures, check for frozen electrolytic fluid before applying load.
- Do not attempt to load test or charge a battery under 20° F.
- Allow the battery to warm to room temperature before testing or charging.

Causes of Battery Failure

Incorrect Application:

Wrong size battery may have inadequate cold cranking rating for original vehicle specification

Incorrect Installation:

Loose battery hold-downs cause excessive vibration, which can result in damage to the plates.

Improper Maintenance:

Low electrolytic fluid and corrosion on battery connections can greatly reduce battery life and affect battery performance.

Age of Battery:

If the date code on the battery indicates it is fairly old, the battery may simply be worn out.

Overcharging:

Overcharging caused by a high voltage regulator setting or incorrect battery charging can cause excessive gassing, heat and water loss.

Undercharging:

Undercharging caused by a faulty charging system or low voltage regulation can cause lead sulfate to gradually build up and crystallize on the plates greatly reducing the battery's capacity and ability to be recharged.

Battery Inspection

Valid automotive electrical system testing depends on all the components being in good operation condition. In addition, the battery **MUST** have sufficient charge for testing. Carefully perform the following before attempting any electrical diagnosis.

Visual Check

- Inspect Belts for cracks, glazed surface and fraying. Tighten loose belts.
- Inspect Battery for terminal corrosion, loose or broken posts, cracks in the case, loose hold-downs, low electrolyte level, moisture, and dirt around the terminal,
- Inspect Starting System. Check starter, solenoid, and regulator for loose connections, loose mounts and frayed or cracked wires.
- Important Note: A defective battery must be replaced before proceeding.

Preliminary Notes

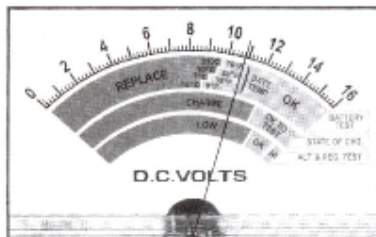
1. **MOISTURE** - If tester has not been used recently, moisture may have condensed between carbon pile discs. This will cause the tester to emit some steam during first or second load application. This is normal and is not a malfunction of the tester. (Do not confuse this with an overloading of the tester.)
2. **BATTERY RATING** - Batteries are rated in Cold Crank Amps or Amp-Hours. This tester uses a stabilized variable load carbon pile that allows each battery to be tested at its proper rating. For batteries rated in Cold Crank Amps, 1/2 the Cold Crank rating load is applied using the Amp scale on the meter. For Amp-Hour rated batteries, a load three times the Amp-Hour rating is applied using the Amp scale,
3. **BATTERY TEMPERATURE** - The temperature of the electrolyte and plates inside a battery affects its output capability. As a result, it is necessary for the serviceman to closely estimate the battery's temperature when testing. This tester has temperature ranges clearly shown on Pass/Fail bands, so that accurate test results can be obtained easily.
4. **TESTER HOOKUP** - Take special care when connecting to side terminal batteries. If necessary, use a side post adapter to prevent thread damage. When testing dual post batteries always check the post to which the system is attached. If a load test is made from a post connection and the alternator is mounted to side terminals a battery load test can be completed, but a continuity problem may still be in the side terminals when testing the alternator.

Battery State of Charge

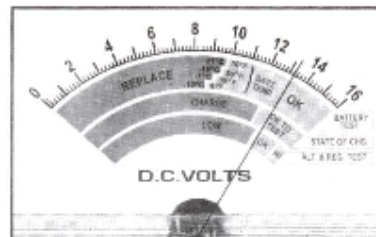
The battery must have an adequate state of charge before a valid battery load test can be performed. The state of charge can be measured with a hydrometer, or checked on the "state of charge" scale on the voltmeter for sealed batteries.

Read the 12 volt range (12 Volt Batteries) on the voltmeter, if the meter reads on the left side, in the red zone of the "state of charge" scale, the battery must be charged. See Appendix Fig. B for charging. Charge at a current rate as shown in Appendix B. This rate is determined by battery category type, which relates to reserve capacity in minutes.

After charging the battery, the surface charge must be removed before testing can begin. Surface charge will cause higher voltage reading which is incorrect. To remove the surface charge, turn the load knob to apply 1/2 the cold crank rating load or 3 times the amp-hour rating to the battery for 5 seconds. Wait several minutes after removing load and check "state of charge". If the meter reads in the charge zone, replace battery (see picture 1). If the voltmeter reads in the "test" band (see picture 2), the battery is ready for the "battery test".



Picture 1



Picture 2

Hydrometer Method

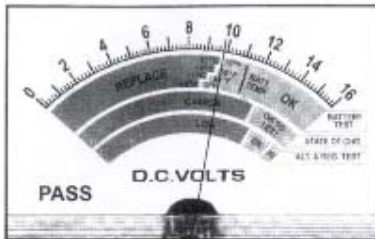
Check the electrolyte specific gravity with a hydrometer. If the specific gravity measures between 1.100 and 1.220, the battery must be recharged. If the specific gravity is between 1.225 and 1.265, the battery is ok to test. If the hydrometer has a temperature correction chart, be sure to adjust the reading for the battery's temperature.

Variance of specific gravity between cells is not significant on discharged batteries (batteries with specific gravities below 1.225). However, if there is a variance of 50 points (0.050) in a battery whose specific gravity is 1225 or more, that battery is defective.

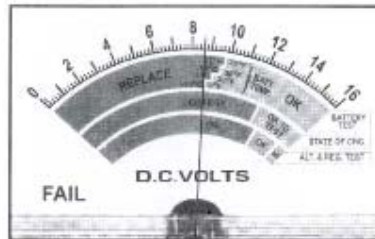
NOTE: A defective battery must be replaced before proceeding with any electrical system tests.

Battery Load Test

1. Turn load knob to apply a load equal to 1/2 the Cold Crank rating or 3 times the Amp-Hour rating for 15 seconds.
2. Hold proper load for 15 seconds observe the voltage reading, and then immediately decrease the load until the fan stops and the ammeter reads zero.
3. If the Volt meter reads in the green zone for the approximate battery temperature, pass the battery (see picture 3). If the Volt meter reads in the red zone, replace the battery (see picture 4). Use the battery Voltage Chart in Appendix B to compare test results.



Picture 3



Picture 4

WARNING: Be sure load is off before attaching or removing load clamps to prevent arcing and potential explosion from battery gases. Always shield eyes and keep sparks, flames or cigarettes away from batteries when testing.

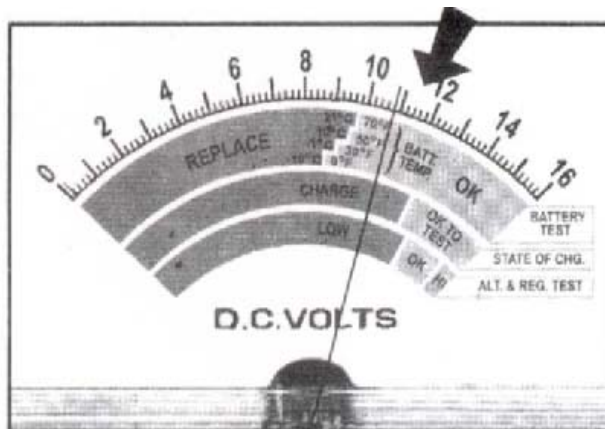
Starter Draw Test

For proper starter functioning, it is important that all related connections are clean and tight, and that the cable and its insulation are in good condition.

On all starter circuit tests, disable ignition circuit by one of the following methods:

- STANDARD. IGNITION - (Points & Cord.): Ground coil output.
- ELEC.IGNITION - (Module): Disconnect 12V power supply.
- DIESEL: Disconnect 12V power supply to fuel shut-off solenoid.
- CHECKING THE VOLTAGE USING THE STARTER: Crank engine and observe the voltmeter reading. Do not crank engine over 7 seconds at one time to eliminate possible damage to starter windings. The battery voltage will drop as it is loaded by the starter or with the tester.
- CHECKING THE VOLTAGE USING THE TESTER: The tester is used as a load to simulate the starter load. This is done by applying a load until the voltage drops to the same voltage observed while cranking the engine. Thus, the tester load amps indicated in the black 0-500 scale are the same as the starter amp load. Read amps indicated on the scale while load is applied (see example below). This is the starter-draw current. Compare amp draw to manufacturer specifications.

LOAD VOLTS SAME AS STARTER VOLTS



Example:

1. With ignition disabled crank vehicle and observe lowest volt reading. For this example, we'll say it reads 11 volts.
2. Apply a load with the Load knob until voltmeter reads 11 volts. Quickly read the ammeter, In this case it reads 240 amps. Remove the load (knob turned fully counterclockwise).
3. We now know the starter draw is 240 amps and that it is generally within specifications for a V8 gasoline engine.

Maximum Amps

If manufacturer's specifications are not available, the chart below can be used as a general guideline for light duty engines and starters. Amounts are in Amps. Keep in mind that the tester reads up to 500 Amps. If the manufacture's specifications and in the case of 8 Cylinder Diesel (Dsl) below exceed 500 Amps the tester will not test the starter draw.

4 Cyl Gas 120-250A	6 Cyl Gas Up to 250A	8 Cyl Gas Up to 250A
4 Cyl Dsl Up to 350A	6 Cyl Dsl Up to 450A	8 Cyl Dsl Up to 650A

ALTERNATOR TEST

To charge a battery, the alternator must produce a voltage higher than the battery voltage to cause current to flow into it. Therefore, the voltage must rise to the "OK" test zone of the ALT. & REG. TEST band.

Before testing, run the vehicles engines at fast idle with all the accessories off for at least 5 minutes to recharge the battery and to stabilize the temperature of the alternator. (Remember, the following tests are valid only if the battery has passed the Battery Load Test. For the following tests, continue running the engine at fast idle).

The battery is recharged when the voltmeter reading has stabilized at its highest reading. Observe the voltmeter reading in the "ALT.& REG. TEST" band:

1. If in HI zone (See Fig. A): Apply a normal accessory load, such as lights, heater and wipers.
2. If the readings drops more than 0.5 volts, there may be a wiring and/or connector problem between the alternator output and battery positive(+). If the alternator is producing adequate charge, and the pointer stays in the OK band, the charging system is OK, and the test is complete (See Fig. B).
3. If the meter is in the low band replace the alternator (See Fig. C).

OUTPUT:

4. Apply a Load upon the battery until the Volts drop to 12.6. At that moment, read Amps and add the key draw amps (10-20 amps). The Load Amps + Key Draw Amps=Total alternator output.

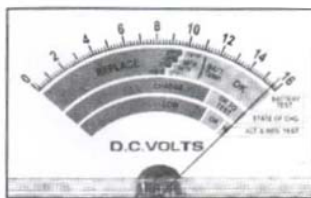


Fig.A

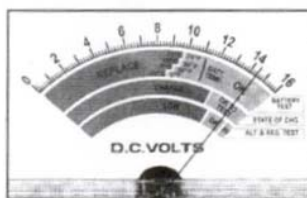


Fig.B

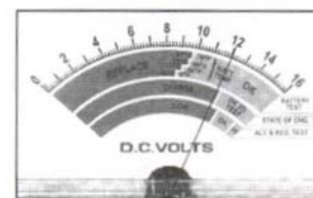


Fig.C

Troubleshooting

Problem:

Battery keeps running down, but all battery and alternator tests pass.

Solutions:

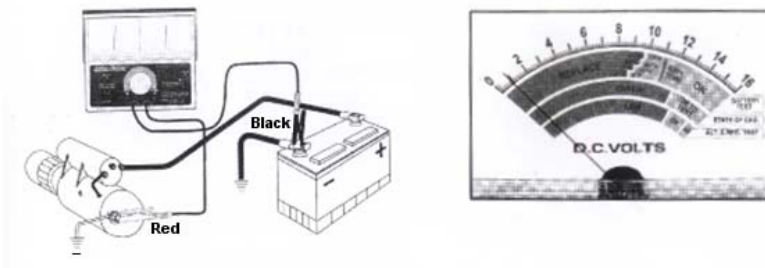
- If alternator reads in the low end of the OK range, it is working fine. For people driving short distances, however, the battery may not charge fast enough, causing the battery to run down slowly. A higher amperage alternator may be necessary to insure faster charging.
- Some shorting or grounding may occur and slowly drain battery. Use a low range ammeter and check to see that no current flows from the battery with all accessories and engine turned off (including clocks). If current is flowing, locate cause and repair. Look for such things as trunk, hood, ashtray and glove compartment lights, bad switches, etc.
- Ammeters installed after vehicle manufacture may not have sufficient wire gauge to carry current without causing a voltage drop. This can reduce battery-charging rate. Measure the voltage drop from battery positive to alternator output terminal. If the drop is greater than 0.5 volts, and all connections are clean and tight replace all wire between the two points with wire that is one gauge heavier.
- Aftermarket accessories may add enough load to the charging system to exceed alternator capacity (i.e., stereos, telephones, defoggers, etc.). Replace alternator with one of higher capacity. Dual Battery System .
- When load testing check each battery separately with cables disconnected, so a problem with one battery is not masked by another battery.
- Charging system should be checked with both batteries connected.
- Accessories may be connected to one or both batteries. Be alert to their wiring differences in testing for problems.

STARTER CIRCUIT TEST

Disable ignition as indicated in the Starter-Draw Test.

POSITIVE CIRCUIT

1. Connect the tester as shown below with the RED clamp to battery positive and the BLACK clamp to the terminal on the starter, which is connected to the solenoid directly or by cable.
2. Observe the voltage reading while cranking the engine.
3. On most light duty vehicles, the reading should not exceed 0.5 volts (See Example Below).
4. If the voltage drop exceeds 0.5 volts, check the voltage drop across the cables, solenoid, and each connection. Repair and/or replace as necessary.

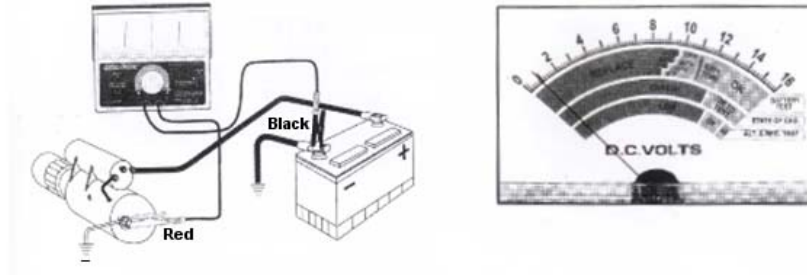


GROUND CIRCUIT

5. To check the ground circuit, connect the RED clamp directly to the starter casing (this may require chipping paint to make a good connection), and the BLACK clamp to the battery negative terminal as shown in example below.
6. While cranking the engine, observe the voltmeter. The voltage drop should not exceed 0.3 volts. The total of the two tests should not exceed 0.8 volts.

Example: If positive reads 0.5 and negative reads 0.3 the total is 0.8 Volts.

Example: 0.5 volts on the positive circuit +0.3 volts on the ground circuit 0.8 total system voltage drop 15.



BATTERY CHARGING GUIDE

(6 and 12 Volt Batteries)

Recommended charging rate and time for fully discharged batteries:

Partially discharged batteries will require less charging time.

CAUTION: Exceeding the recommended charging rates can damage the battery plates and generate potentially explosive gases.

Battery Category (Reserve Capacity Minutes)	Charge Battery At Either Rate And Time Shown
80 minutes or less	14 hrs. at 5 Amps 7 hrs. at 10 Amps
80 to 125 minutes	20 hrs. at 5 Amps 10 hrs. at 10 Amps
125 to 170 minutes	28 hrs. at 5 Amps 14 hrs. at 10 Amps
170 to 250 minutes	42 hrs. at 5 Amps 21 hrs. at 10 Amps
Above 250 minutes	33 hrs. at 10 Amps

A

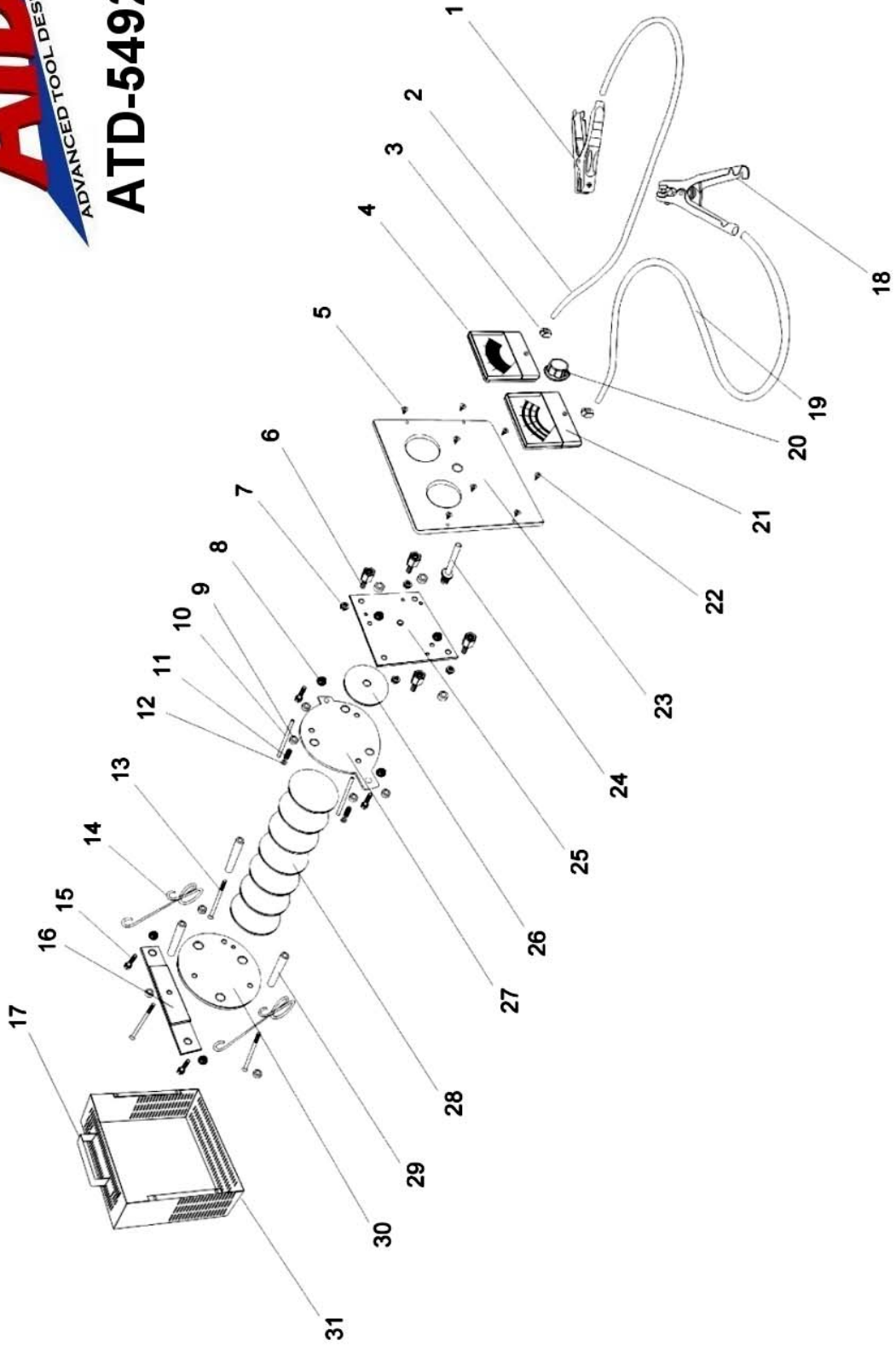
BATTERY VOLTAGE CHART

Estimated Electrolyte Temperature	Minimum Required Voltage Under 15 Second Load	
	6 VOLT	12 VOLT
70° F or above	4.8	9.6
60° F	4.75	9.5
50° F	4.7	9.4
40° F	4.65	9.3
30° F	4.6	9.2
20° F	4.55	9.1
10° F	4.5	8.9
0° F	4.25	8.5

B



ATD-5492





ATD-5492

ITEM#	ORDERING PART#	PART DESCRIPTION	ITEM#	ORDERING PART#	PART DESCRIPTION
1	PRT5492-01-02	ANODE (+)CLAMP & CABLE	17	PRT5492-17	HANDLE AND COVER
2	PRT5492-01-02	ANODE (+)CLAMP & CABLE	18	PRT5492-18-19	CATHODE (-)CLAMP & CABLE
3	PRT5492-03	CABLE STANDOFF	19	PRT5492-18-19	CATHODE (-)CLAMP & CABLE
4	PRT5492-04	VOLTAGE METER	20	PRT5492-20	KNOB
5	PRT5492-05	SCREW M3*6	21	PRT5492-21	AMPERAGE METER
6	PRT5492-06	SCREW M5*15	22	PRT5492-22	SCREW M6*10
7	PRT5492-07	NUT M4	23	PRT5492-23	FRONT COVER
8	PRT5492-08	FLANGE SCREW M5	24	PRT5492-24	KNOB SHAFT
9	PRT5492-09	DIELECTRIC SLEEVE (PORCELAIN TUBE)	25	PRT5492-25	PLATE
10	PRT5492-10	PROTECTING SLEEVE	26	PRT5492-26	MICA DISC
11	PRT5492-11	SPRING	27	PRT5492-27	HOLDER DISC
12	PRT5492-12	CLIP	28	PRT5492-28	CARBON DISC
13	PRT5492-13	SHAFT	29	PRT5492-29	DIELECTRIC SLEEVE (PORCELAIN TUBE)
14	PRT5492-14	PIGTAIL WIRE	30	PRT5492-30	HOLDER DISC
15	PRT5492-15	SCREW M3*6	31	PRT5492-31	OUTER CASE
16	PRT5492-16	BRACE			