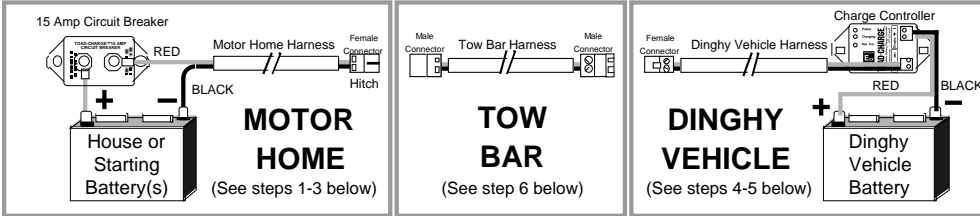


# TOAD-CHARGE™

# Towed Vehicle Battery Charger

**GENERAL INFORMATION** — TOAD-CHARGE™ keeps the battery in your towed vehicle (or "Toad") charged while it is being towed behind your motorhome, thereby solving the battery discharge problems often caused by auxiliary braking systems or leaving the steering wheel unlocked while towing. The kit connects between your motorhome's starting or house batteries and the towed vehicle's battery, using the motorhome's engine to supply up to 10 amps of current to the towed vehicle's battery.

The TOAD-CHARGE™ kit consists of several components: A charge regulator installed in the towed (or "Dinghy") vehicle's engine compartment monitors the charging current, and prevents reverse current flow when the motorhome engine is started. A 15 Amp circuit breaker installed near the motorhome starting battery protects against excessive current flow due to wiring faults or a dead battery. The charge regulator and circuit breaker are connected together by wire harnesses which are cut to desired lengths from 60 feet of 12 gauge dual-conductor wire. Detachable connectors on the tow bar harness allow it to be stowed along with the tow bar when not needed. The harnesses include a dedicated ground wire, thereby minimizing the voltage drop that might otherwise be present when relying on the motorhome's trailer hitch wiring.



**CAUTION!**

USE CARE AROUND BATTERIES — SPARKS CAN IGNITE HYDROGEN GAS. SHORT CIRCUITS CAN CAUSE BURNS OR FIRE. CORROSIVE ACID CAN CAUSE SKIN BURNS OR BLINDNESS.



USE CARE IN DRILLING HOLES NOT TO CONTACT ANY ELECTRICAL WIRING — HAZARD OF SHOCK, FIRE, BURNS.

## Step-By-Step Installation Instructions

### 1

**STEP ONE:** For safety's sake, disable the house battery charger and solar panels before disconnecting the battery cable from the Negative post on the motorhome starting and house batteries. Next, identify a suitable point for connecting the kit's wire harness to the Positive and Negative/Chassis Ground sides of your motorhome's starting or house batteries (either at your motorhome's battery isolator or directly to the battery posts), **but don't connect the wires yet.** (NOTE: Connecting the harness to the motorhome's HOUSE batteries has the advantage of allowing the towed vehicle to be recharged overnight when parked with AC hookups.) Route the harness rearward to your motorhome's receiver hitch, using the Nylon tie-wraps (included in the kit) as the means of attachment every few feet or so. Take care to keep the harness from touching hot exhaust parts, sharp edges or moving parts of the motorhome drivetrain. After you reach the hitch at the back of the motor home, cut off any surplus wire, leaving about a foot of harness dangling beyond the hitch. Save the surplus wire for use in STEP TWO below.

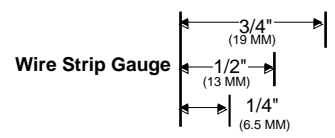
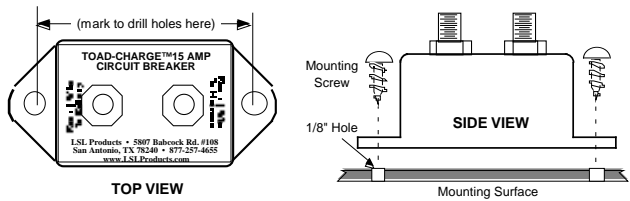
### 2

**STEP TWO:** Mount the 15 Amp Circuit Breaker next to your chosen motorhome battery connection point, using 2 sheet metal screws (included) in 1/8" drilled holes (as shown below). **WARNING: DO NOT OMIT THE CIRCUIT BREAKER, OR A FIRE HAZARD WILL RESULT!** On the end of the harness, remove several feet of white plastic covering to expose the Red and Black wires. Cut these wires just long enough to reach the Circuit Breaker (for the Red wire) and Negative/Chassis Ground (for the Black wire).



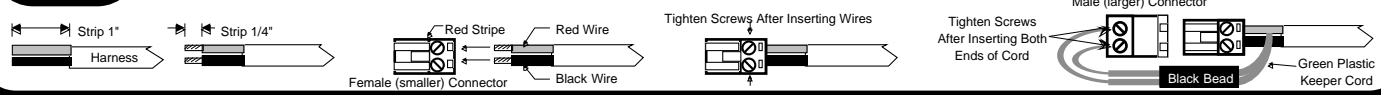
Next, strip approx. 1/2" of insulation off this Red wire, and crimp a small yellow ring terminal to it before connecting it to the HARNESS terminal on the circuit breaker. In a similar manner, crimp a ring terminal (small, medium or large size) to the cable's Black wire before connecting it to the Negative/Chassis Ground connection point you previously chose in STEP ONE above.

Next, take the surplus cable left over from STEP ONE, split the white plastic covering off it to expose the Red wire inside, and cut this wire so that it is long enough to connect between the 15 Amp Circuit Breaker and your previously-chosen Positive connection point. Strip both ends of this wire, crimping a small yellow ring terminal to one end before attaching it to the BATTERY terminal on the Circuit Breaker. Crimp either a small, medium or large yellow ring terminal to the other wire end before attaching it to your chosen Positive connection point.



### 3

**STEP THREE:** On the motorhome hitch end of the harness, remove approx. 1" of the white plastic outer covering. Strip approx. 1/4" of insulation off the exposed red and black wires, twisting any frayed small copper wires back together. Next, fully insert these bare wires into one of the green FEMALE (smaller) plug-in connectors (included) before tightening the connector screws to captivate the wires. The Red wire goes to the connector pin marked with a red stripe; the Black wire goes to the other, unmarked pin. **Do not overtighten the connector screws.** Finally, loop a piece of green plastic keeper cord through the black wire behind the connector, through a black plastic bead, and then connect both ends of the cord to a MALE (larger) plug-in connector. This connector serves as a "dust cap" whenever the cable is not in use.



### 4

**STEP FOUR:** Inside your towed vehicle's engine compartment, identify points for connecting the Charge Regulator to the vehicle's battery. The TOAD-CHARGE™ kit includes a pair of small, medium and large-diameter yellow ring terminals for making these connections directly to the battery terminal bolts or jump-start terminals (if present) - use which ever size ring terminal fits best. For safety's sake, disconnect the vehicle's battery cable from the Negative post on the battery before proceeding.

Use 2 sheet metal screws or 2 nylon zip-ties to mount the Charge Regulator near your chosen battery connection points (just like the 15 Amp Circuit Breaker was mounted in STEP 2 above). Next, take one end the surplus harness wire left over from STEP 2 above, and strip 1/4" off its red and black wires before connecting them to the MH terminals on the Charge Regulator (Red wire to MH+ terminal, Black wire to MH- terminal). Route the other end of this harness from the charge regulator to the dinghy vehicle's front grille, using nylon tie wraps to secure it along the way. After routing it to exit through the grille near a tow bar attachment point, cut off any surplus length, leaving about a foot of harness dangling next to the tow bar. Finally, repeat the process described above in STEP 3 to attach a FEMALE (smaller) plug-in connector and MALE "dust cap" to it.

# 5

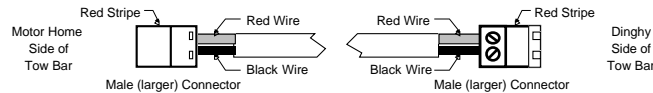
**STEP FIVE:** Take the surplus harness left over from STEP 4 and cut a piece of it just long enough to connect the Charge Controller to the dingy battery connection points you previously chose in STEP 4. Remove the white protective sleeve, strip 1/4" of insulation off one end of the Red and Black wires inside it, and connect these ends to the **DINGHY** terminals on the charge controller (Red wire to **DINGHY+**, Black wire to **DINGHY-**).

Strip approx. 1/4" from the opposite ends of Red and Black wires you previously connected to the Charge Regulator, crimp them to the appropriate sized yellow ring terminals (included), and then attach these terminals to the bolts on the battery cable clamps (Red to Positive; Black to Negative).

**NOTE:** If your dinghy vehicle does not have the battery located in the engine compartment, connect the Charge Controller to the Positive and Negative terminals on your vehicle's Jump-Start terminals in the engine compartment instead.

# 6

**STEP SIX:** With your tow bar attached and extended in the same manner as it would be when towing your dinghy vehicle, take the surplus harness left over from STEP 5 above and use Nylon wire ties to attach it from one end of the tow bar to the other (i.e., from dinghy vehicle to motor home). Cut off any excess harness, making sure to leave enough of it dangling at both ends to reach the connectors on the motor home and dinghy vehicle under **ALL** driving and stowage conditions - In particular, leave enough slack to allow unrestricted movement as the tow bar flexes up and down or folds against the tow vehicle (if applicable). If your tow bar folds sideways or telescopes, be sure to attach the harness to it in such a manner that the harness isn't pinched when folded or retracted. Finally, attach green MALE (large) plug-in connectors to both ends of this harness, taking care to match the Red wires with their corresponding red stripes on the connectors:



This completes the entire installation process.

**NOTE:** The kit includes several small, easily-lost spare parts, and one spare male/female pair of plug-in connectors. Save these items for future repairs.

## Operation & Maintenance

With the tow vehicle cable connected to the motorhome, the green **POWER** light will illuminate whenever the motorhome engine is supplying a sufficiently high voltage to turn on the charge controller (13.2 volts). The Yellow **CHARGING** light typically illuminates whenever more than several amps of charging current are being supplied. (NOTE: If the kit is connected to the motorhome's starting battery(s), neither light will typically illuminate until shortly after the motorhome engine is started. If the kit is connected to the motorhome's house batteries instead, the lights may also illuminate whenever AC shore or generator power is present.)

When the motorhome engine is shut off (and, in installations where the kit is wired to receive power from the house batteries, shore power is also removed), all dinghy charging will soon cease. As the motorhome battery voltage gradually drops, the **POWER** and **CHARGING** lights on the Charge Regulator will eventually turn off. Shortly after the power cable is unplugged, the Charge Regulator draws no current from the dinghy's battery. There is no need to unplug the cable whenever the hitched motorhome/towed vehicle combination are parked overnight, or to disconnect the Regulator when driving the towed vehicle by itself.

The Charge Regulator has a feature that prevents reverse current flow in the event that the motorhome's starting or house batteries are discharged. This ensures that the dinghy can always be started, even if both battery banks on the motorhome are completely dead. This feature is also used along with a 15 Amp circuit breaker to ensure that a short circuit at any point along the power cable will not allow excessive current to flow from either the motorhome or towed vehicle batteries – an important safety benefit.

Periodic maintenance consists of: (1.) keeping the cable connectors free of dirt and road grease (a spray can of WD-40® works well for this task), (2.) inspection of the harness wires for frayed or damaged insulation, and (3.) tightening any loose harness wire screws on the green plug-in connectors. When not in use, the motorhome and towed vehicle green plug-in connectors should be mated to their protective dust caps.

## Troubleshooting - In Case Of Problems

**SYMPTOM** - No Charge Controller lights are illuminated when the kit is connected to the motorhome and the motorhome engine is running. Check for the following:

1. The dinghy vehicle engine battery is fully charged - Briefly turn on the dinghy vehicle's headlights (motor home engine running, dinghy engine turned off). This should deplete enough battery charge to force the Charge Controller to resume operation.
2. The motorhome starting and/or house batteries are heavily discharged - Since first priority is given to recharging these batteries, the voltage produced by the motorhome engine may not be high enough to turn on the Charge Controller until these other batteries have had a chance to accept some charge. Typically, this problem will remedy itself within a few minutes after the motor home engine is started.
3. The harness wires are reversed at some point along its run - Check to see that the red wire is always attached to the connector pin which is marked with a red stripe, and that the connections to the Charge Controller and Circuit Breaker are correct.

**SYMPTOM** - The TOAD-CHARGE kit only works sporadically - Sometimes working normally; other times not working at all. Check for loose wire crimp connections on the ring terminals at the motor home battery and 15 Amp Circuit Breaker, and for loose wire screws on Charge Regulator, dinghy vehicle battery posts, and all green plug-in connectors on the wire harness. On the Circuit Breaker, also check the brass nuts which attach the ring terminals to the Circuit Breaker for tightness.

**SYMPTOM** - The red **REV POL** light is glowing steadily. This indicates reverse polarity, and only occurs if the kit is wired incorrectly. Check for reversed wire connections at the motor home battery posts, all 4 green plug-in connectors, the Charge Controller terminals, and the dinghy vehicle battery posts.

## Warranty

LSL Products warranties this unit for a period of **ONE YEAR** from the date of purchase against defects in materials and workmanship. Please save your receipt as proof of warranty coverage. LSL Products will, at its option, repair or replace any defective components, at no charge to the owner. Please contact us prior to returning the unit. This warranty does not cover damage due to improper installation or unreasonable use of the product. In no event shall LSL Products nor any of its representatives be responsible for incidental or consequential damages. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

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