

There are AGM and GEL cell rated battery chargers, while some are simply listed as lead acid chargers. What is the difference and will lead acid chargers work well for the AGM and GEL batteries?

Be careful some of the "Lead Acid" chargers will not work with AGM's "voltage charge curve", in other words the automatic charge feature will thremo overload a AGM and ruin your battery. Heat = Bad for battery

The folks at Schumacher informed me that Model #SC-7500, available at WalMart, is designed for Optima Red Top type batteries.

we have a Die Hard automatic charger in the lab. When connected to either a Gel or AGM battery it will always go to a "check" light on the display and will not charge the battery. It will work fine on a lead-acid battery, but no others that i have found.

We've run the Schumacher SE-70 charger. It's a selectable 12/24 volt charger. We've run them for four years with no problems. We've had them on the Optimas, the Exide orbitals, the small sealed batteries and some big lead acids. Absolutely no problems.

Biggest problem we had was getting them. We ended up calling the company directly.

How many amps are teams charging at? How long does it take to charge your batteries after a race?

Directy from Optima's site. This information is for the red tops. You should find the same type of information for the batteries you are using. I highlighted the battery charger information.

The following charging methods are recommended to insure a long battery life:

- Always use a voltage-regulated charger, with voltage limits set as described below.
- RedTop Type: **34 & 34R - 34/78 - 6V - 25 & 35 - 75/25**
- These batteries are designed for engine starting applications. They are NOT recommended or warranted for use in deep-cycle applications.
- Alternator: 13.3 to 15.0 volts, no amperage limit.
- **Battery charger: 13.8 to 15.0 volts, 10 amps maximum, 6-12 hours approximate.**
- Rapid Recharge: Maximum voltage 15.6 volts (regulated).
- Maximum current: No limit as long as temperature < 125°F (51.7°C).
- Maximum recharge time: Charge until current drops below 1 amp.
- Float charge: 13.2 to 13.8 volts, 1 amp maximum current, time indefinite (at lower voltage).
- To charge the OPTIMA 6V-1050, six volt battery, divide the charge voltage setting in half.

Here's the yellow top informtion.

OPTIMA YELLOWTOP CHARGING INFORMATION

The following charging methods are recommended to insure a long battery life - always use a voltage-regulated charger, with voltage limits set as described below.

YellowTop Type: **D51 & D51R - D35 - D75/25 - D34 - D34/78**

These batteries are dual-purpose. They are designed for engine start and cyclic applications and for use in vehicles with large accessory loads.

Recommended charging information:

Alternator:

- 13.65 to 15.0 volts, no amperage limit.

Battery charger:

- 13.8 to 15.0 volts, 10 amps maximum, 6-12 hours approximate.

Cyclic Applications:

- 14.7 volts, no current limit as long as battery temperature remains below 125°F (51.7°C). When current falls below 1 amp, finish with 2 amp constant current for 1 hour.

Rapid Recharge:

- Maximum voltage 15.6 volts (regulated).

Maximum current:

- No limit as long as temperature <125°F (51.7°C).

Maximum recharge time:

- Charge until current drops below 1 amp.

Float charge:

- 13.2 to 13.8 volts, 1 amp maximum current, time indefinite (at lower voltage).

I forget, are there 2 heats at RA in which we need to recharge batteries in under 3 hours? I seem to remember a situation like that. Or was that because of rain?

There are two heats. There really isn't enough time to fully recharge a completely dead battery. If you have an efficient car, the battery might not be fully depleted, otherwise a second set of batteries is the best alternative.

I heard it mentioned at the class that these batteries have an "ideal" temperature, but I don't recall hearing any straight answer on that. I looked at the spec for the optima batteries and they say to keep them under 125F, does that mean anything under 125F is ideal? As far as lead-acid batteries are concerned I believe the ideal temperature is approximately 80F, I'm thinking that should hold true for the agm's too. Anyone agree or disagree or actually know what temp is best?

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Don't know for sure, but some of those races can be chilly in the morning. Bring a heat blanket to at least keep the batteries warm.