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Instruction Manual AP730

Before operating this product please read this manual thoroughly and retain it for future reference.



✓ N15335 CE FC



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Contents

	Page
• Warnings	1
• Getting started	3
• Controls	4
• Battery selection	5
• LCD Display	7
• Charging process	8
• Powering a device	9
• Using the inverter	10
• Alarm messages, dual battery & mounting	11
• Specifications	12
• Trouble shooting & FAQs	14

Warnings

Q. Can I use the ArkPak to jump start a car with a flat battery?

A. Yes you can as long as the battery installed in the ArkPak is a cold cranking battery.

Q. Can I jump start the car using a deep cycle battery?

A. Yes you can however you need to connect the battery to the vehicle's starting battery for an hour to charge the starting battery. The deep cycle battery will need to be fully charge or near to.

Q. My cigarette socket won't provide power anymore, what is wrong?

A. Check the 10A fuse under the lid. If the fuse is okay, turn the main isolator switch on and off a few times. Otherwise the battery may be flat.

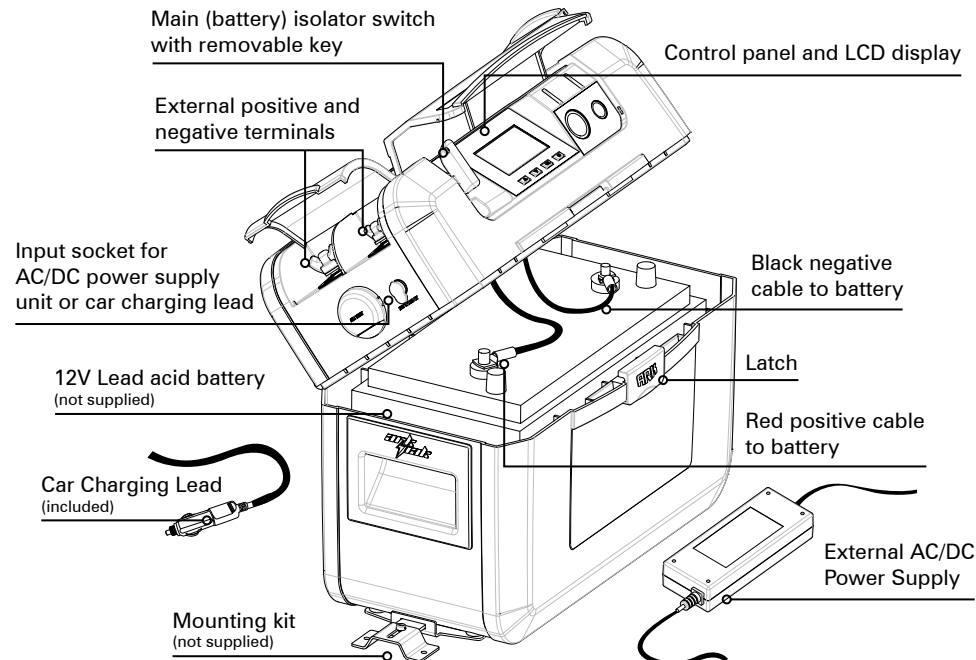
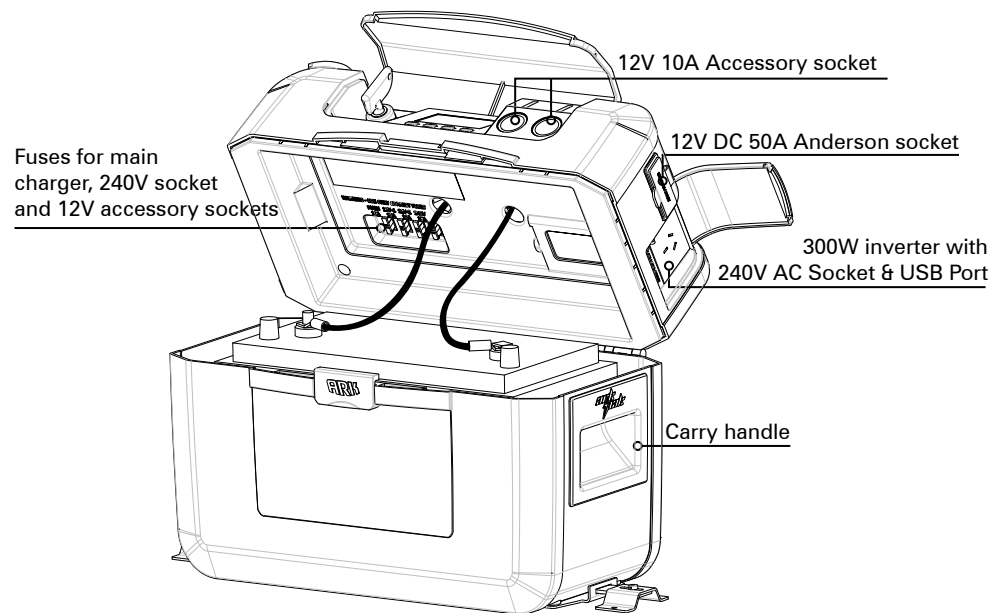
Q. What is net watts?

A. Is the amount of power either going into or drawn from the battery.

If the ArkPak is charging and powering a device at the same time the net watts will display the difference in power. For example if there is +90W going into the battery and the ArkPak is powering a -60W lamp then net watts is +30W.

- The external AC/DC power supply is for indoor use only.
- When charging, adequate ventilation must be provided to dissipate heat and battery gases. Keep clear of naked flame, spark or conductive material while charging a battery.
- Do not attempt to disassemble the ArkPak as this may result in electric shock, fire or explosion. Any attempt to disassemble the unit, make unapproved repairs or modifications will void the warranty and the user's authority to operate the ArkPak.
- The ArkPak is not intended for use by children or infirm persons unless they are supervised or have been instructed how to use the ArkPak by a person responsible for their safety. Children should be supervised to ensure that they do not play with the ArkPak.
- For charging 12 volt 6 cell lead acid or 12V lithium iron phosphate batteries of 60Ahr to 140Ahr capacity only. Do not attempt to recharge non-rechargeable batteries.
- If AC cord is damaged do not attempt to use the ArkPak.
- Disconnect the mains supply before making or breaking connections to the battery
- Never try to insert a foreign object into the 240V AC socket except an approved 240V AC electrical plug. The 240V AC socket should be treated the same as a mains electrical socket in your home.
- Never use the 240V AC socket outdoors if it is raining.
- The main isolator switch must be in the off position when inserting an electrical plug into the 240V AC socket, or if the ArkPak is not in use.
- The AC/DC adaptor can emit a noticeable amount of heat whilst charging and should be placed in a location where it can get plenty of airflow.
- When charging the battery or powering a device from one of the outlets the lid of the ArkPak should be closed and latched shut.
- Continuously discharging the battery down to 0% may reduce its serviceable life. It is recommended to always leave at least 20% capacity unused.
- The ArkPak is not suitable for powering any type of medical electrical device or equipment.

Overview of ArkPak Features



Q. Can I charge the battery and power a device at the same time?

A. Yes, the ArkPak is designed to do this.

Q. Why doesn't my ArkPak go into charge cycle?

A. AC adaptor could be blown and needs replacing.

Q. When I connect my laptop AC adaptor to the AC outlet an alarm sounds with two beeps, why is that?

A. For some laptop adaptors the in-rush current can trigger the alarm and the internal inverter will protect itself. The issue can be overcome by turning the Arkpak AC outlet on first (so green LED is lit), then turning on the laptop and finally connecting the laptop adaptor to the laptop and Arkpak AC outlet.

Q. My 240V outlet keeps blowing the 30A fuse, why is that?

A. The device you have plugged into the 240V outlet is unsuitable (could be too powerful) and has damaged the internal inverter.

Q. Can I install the ArkPak into my vehicle as part of a dual battery installation?

A. Yes you can however, you will need a dual battery wiring kit installed into your vehicle. We recommend you get this kit installed by a qualified auto electrician. You can connect the dual battery wiring loom to the ArkPak either via the external terminals or the Anderson socket. Please remember the main isolator switch must be in the "on" position. The ArkPak can be fixed into your vehicle using the accessory mounting kit (Part no. APB20B - not included). The ArkPak cannot be mounted into the vehicle's engine bay.

Q. Can I charge the battery using solar panels?

A. Yes you can as long as the main isolator switch is in the "on" position. This type of charging is not controlled by the on-board microprocessor since the charge current will flow direct to the battery via the main isolator switch. If an external voltage regulator is not used there is a risk of overcharging and damaging the battery.

Q. Why is the time remaining value often different to the actual time taken?

A. The predicted time remaining value is an estimate only. The time prediction is affected by many variables such as temperature, battery age and battery type and it is impossible for it to be completely accurate but it is a useful guide.

Q. Is it possible for the ArkPak to power a device if it is turned off at the control panel?

A. Yes, it is, since the various output socket are connected direct to the battery via the main isolator switch and not via the smart charger. However it will not be possible to determine the battery voltage or the time remaining if this is done.

Troubleshooting and FAQs

Q. How do I know if the battery is fully charged?

A. The % charge of battery value on the lower right hand side of the main data screen will read 100%. Refer to page 7.

Q. I have installed the battery correctly but the LCD screen reads "Alarm - open circuit", what is wrong?

A. The battery is faulty or the 10A "main" fuse is blown, also check battery cables are firmly tightened to battery terminals.

Q. How can I tell what stage the charger is in?

A. The battery charging cycle is indicated on the lower left hand side of the main data screen. Refer to page 7.

Q. What does Ahr mean?

A. An "amp hour" (abbreviation Ahr) is a unit of electrical charge and refers to the battery's capacity. A power source rated at one amp hour can deliver one amp continuously for one hour or two amps for half an hour or sixty amps for one minute etc.

Q. What type of batteries will the ArkPak charge?

A. The ArkPak AP730 can charge lithium iron phosphate batteries and most types of rechargeable 12V lead-acid type battery from 60 Ahr capacity up to 140Ahr. There are four main types of 12V lead acid battery - conventional wet lead-acid battery, calcium, AGM and gel. The ArkPak can charge both cold cranking type car batteries and deep cycle batteries.

Q. How do I know which battery type and Ahr rating to select?

A. Normally the battery type and Ahr rating is marked on the battery by the manufacturer. If you are not sure contact your battery retailer. It is very important that the correct battery type is selected since the charger uses a different charge technique for each battery type.

Q. Can I charge the battery using the external terminals or accessory sockets?

A. Yes you can as long as the main isolator switch is in the "on" position. This type of charging is not controlled by the on-board microprocessor since the charge current will flow direct to the battery via the main isolator switch. If an external voltage regulator is not used there is a risk of overcharging and damaging the battery. Please also consider the accessory sockets are fused at 10A so a current flow higher than this will blow the fuse.

Q. Can I leave the ArkPak continually plugged in?

A. Yes the ArkPak will go into float cycle.

Q. My AC adaptor gets hot when charging, is that okay?

A. Yes that is normal, it can reach 75°C.

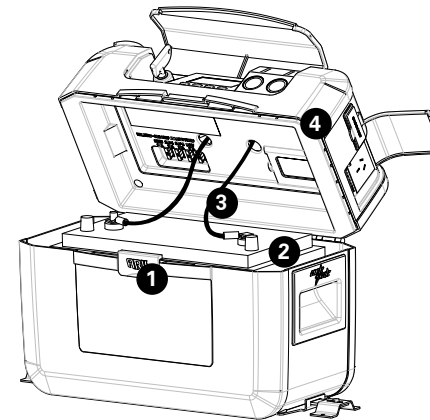
Getting Started

Connecting the Battery

Step 1. Release the front latch and open the lid.

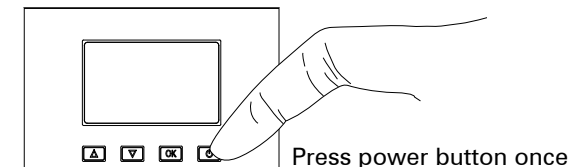
Step 2. Place a 12 volt lead acid battery (not supplied) into the base of the ArkPak and secure it with the velcro belt.

Step 3. Connect the red cable to the positive battery terminal. Then connect the black cable to the negative terminal. Make sure the nuts on the battery terminals are firmly fastened, also make sure any battery carry ropes are positioned away from the terminals and battery leads to avoid interference when closing the lid.



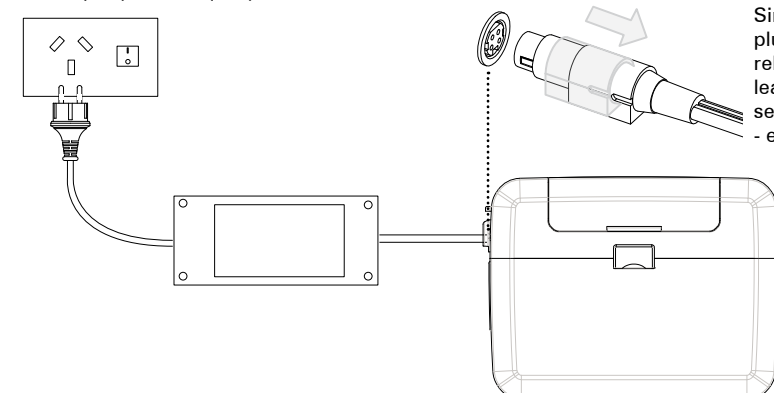
Step 4. Close the lid and fasten the latch.

Step 5. Turn ArkPak ON



Press power button once

Step 6. Connect ArkPak to your chosen adaptor (240V AC or 12V DC) then connect adaptor to power supply, either 240V(AC) or 12V(DC) outlet



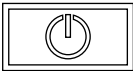
240V AC or 12V DC
Secure Connection:
Simply pull back the
plug sleeve, insert, then
release. This locks the
lead into the ArkPak for a
secure fit in all situations
- especially on the move

INVERTER SPECIFICATIONS

Familiarise Yourself With These Controls

The ArkPak has four buttons on the main control panel.

Power Button



Press to turn charger **ON**
Press and hold for 4 secs to turn charger **OFF**

Menu Buttons



UP button – Scroll up

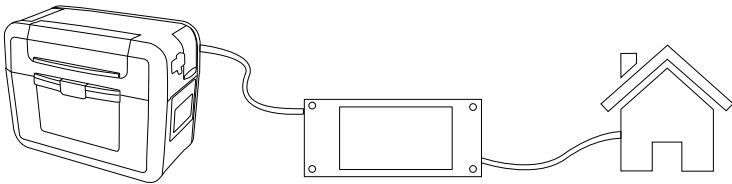


DOWN button – Scroll down

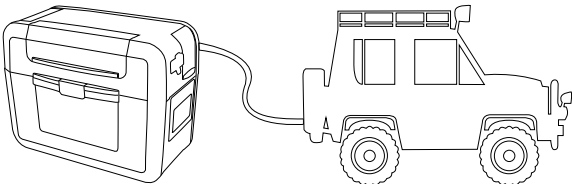


OK button – Enter

Charging AC – 240V



Charging DC – 12V



CAUTION – In some vehicles the 12V accessory socket may still provide power even if the ignition is turned off. In this case continued and un-monitored use of the ArkPak in DC mode may result in a flat vehicle starter battery

Max continuous power	300W
Max spike output power	900W
Input voltage range	DC 10V-15V
Output voltage range	AC 110-120V / AC 220-240V
Output frequency	60 +/- 3Hz / 50 +/- 3Hz
Output waveform	Modified sine wave
Optimum efficiency	More than 90%
No load current draw	Less than 0.4A
Cooling	By fan
Input under voltage warning	11 +/- 0.5V
Input under voltage shutdown	10 +/- 0.5V
Internal fuse	30A
USB port output	5V DC
Thermal protection	60 +/- 5°C

ArkPak Specifications

GENERAL	
Type	ArkPak AP730
Input (Nominal)	240V AC, 50Hz or 110V AC 60 Hz
Input Power	120W
Output Voltage	12V DC
Output Current	up to 7A
Minimum Start Voltage	10.5V
Back Drain	0.1A
Reverse Polarity Protection	By fuse
ARKPAK DIMENSIONS	
Internal	180mm wide x 330mm long x 238mm high
External	240mm wide x 440mm long x 327mm high
Weight	4.62kg
CHARGE CONTROL	
Charge	Up to: 14.5V (Wet) 14.1V (Gel) 14.5V (AGM) 14.9V (Calcium) 14.6V (Lithium iron phosphate LiFePO4)
Boost	Constant voltage for up to 1.5 hours
Resting	Allows voltage to drop to float voltage
Float	13.5V or 13.7V (LiFePO4) for 500 hours
Re-awaken	Return to charge cycle after 500 hours
BATTERY RANGE	
Deep cycle	60Ahr up to 140Ahr
Automotive	300-800CCA
Marine	350-950MCA
Types of batteries	12V lead acid batteries including gel, AGM, wet, calcium and 12V lithium iron phosphate batteries.
OUTPUTS	
2 x Cigarette sockets	12V 10A rated
1 x Anderson socket	12V 50A rated
1 x 240V AC socket	240V 50hz modified sine wave
2 x External terminals	12V 100A rated
1 x USB outlet	5V 2.1A max

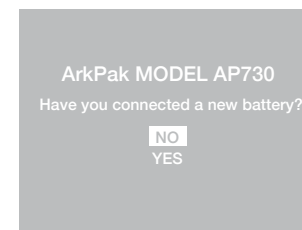
Battery Selection

Now that your ArkPak is ON, the following information will guide you through the battery selection process.

Step 1. Welcome Screen

Appears when the charger is turned ON for the first time

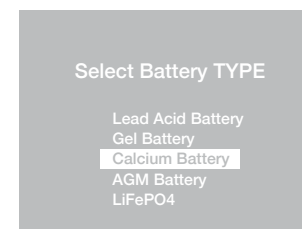
- Select **YES** if you are charging a new type of battery – Proceed to step 2
- Select **NO** if you have already completed setup and are charging your usual battery – Charging will then commence



Step 2. Battery Type Selection

The ArkPak has five types of charge programs that can charge conventional 12V Lead acid, Calcium, GEL or AGM batteries or 12V lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries.

Using the **MENU** buttons, scroll up or down to your battery type and press **OK** to select



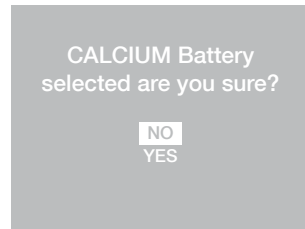
CAUTION – Refer to battery label or battery manufacturer if you are unsure of your battery type, selecting the wrong battery type may damage your battery.

Alarm Messages on LCD Screen

Step 3. Battery confirmation – CALCIUM batteries only

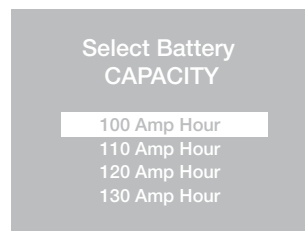
If you selected CALCIUM battery you will be asked to confirm your selection. Calcium batteries need to be charged at a much higher voltage which could cause damage to other battery types.

- Select **YES** if you are charging a CALCIUM battery – Proceed to step 4
- Select **NO** return to Battery type selection



Step 4. Battery Capacity Selection

Using the **MENU** buttons, scroll up or down to your battery size in Ah (amp hours) rating and press **OK** to select. If your battery Ah rating is not listed then select the next level down i.e battery size 105Ah – select 100Ah



Your battery setup is now complete and the main data page will appear. The charge process for your specific battery chemistry will commence in 30 seconds.

These settings are now saved in the ArkPak. Please note the next time you turn the ArkPak on the welcome screen is bypassed and the main data screen will appear.

If you disconnect the saved battery or connect a new battery the welcome screen will appear first (refer to step 1) and you'll need to select 'yes' or 'no' again.

CAUTION – the ArkPak only saves the last battery setup, the setup process will have to be completed every time a different battery is charged

1. Alarm - Over Temperature. Smart charger has exceeded safe temperature limit.
2. Alarm - Reverse Polarity. Battery is connected in reverse polarity (only shows when mains power is connected).
3. Alarm - Open Circuit. Battery is not connected or is faulty (only shows when mains power is connected).
4. Alarm - Low Battery. Battery voltage is low (less than 10.5V). The ArkPak screen will switch off after 5 minutes however the discharge process will continue if you leave a device connected. The ArkPak cannot disconnect your device.
5. Alarm - Check battery. Battery won't reach 12.8V within 25 hours. Battery may have a problem (eg may be heavily sulphated or have a faulty cell). This alarm may be triggered if the battery is being used to power a device and is being charged at the same time, in which case the battery is OK.
6. Alarm - Low input voltage. Input voltage is below limit required to power charger.

Installing the ArkPak as part of a Dual Battery System using the Anderson Plug

The ArkPak can be used in a dual battery set-up. The best method to do this is to connect the ArkPak to a dual battery wiring loom (not supplied) using either the positive/negative external terminals or the Anderson plug. Using these methods the smart charge system is bypassed so the ArkPak cannot control the charging voltage. A voltage sensitive relay/solenoid must be used to ensure priority is given to charging the vehicle's main starting battery. The main isolator switch on the ArkPak must be switched on. The main data screen will show "external cycle" after a few minutes of charging in this case. See FAQs for more information.

WARNING – Do not charge battery using Anderson plug and car charging lead (refer to page 2) at the same time.

Mounting the ArkPak

Ark offer an optional mounting kit for the ArkPak (Part no. APB20B).

Attach the mounting brackets to the surface you wish to mount the ArkPak on. Attach the mounting tongues in position onto the brackets using the M5 x 8 screws. Attach the two mounting plates to the underside of the ArkPak using the M6 screws. To fix the ArkPak in position loosen the M5 screws and slide the two tongues inward so they locate inside the slots on the mounting plates. Fasten the M5 screws to fix the ArkPak in position. Refer to diagram on the back of the mounting kit packaging.

Using the 240V AC Inverter

The AC socket is powered by an internal inverter that converts 12V DC to 240V AC with a continuous power output of 300W. The inverter also has a USB 5V DC output socket for charging cameras, MP3 players or SatNav units. To use the AC socket or 5V USB socket the inverter on/off switch must be switched on and the main isolator switch must be in the "on" position. The inverter is protected by a 30A fuse on the underside of the lid. Do not connect high power appliances like a hair dryer or kettle to the inverter as this may cause damage. Also this type of inverter cannot be used with fluoro lighting.

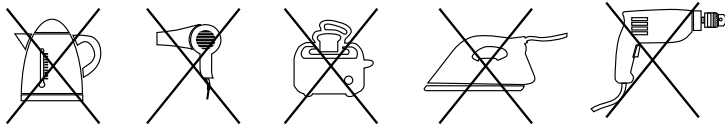
The inverter will start to sound a warning alarm once the battery voltage is getting low and reaches 11V. At this stage the inverter should be switched off or the device disconnected. If this is not done the inverter will switch itself off when the battery voltage reaches 10.5V.

Inverter Warning Signals (Bi is short beep, BEE is longer beep)

Condition	Warning Signal Cycle	Shutdown Signal Cycle
Low Battery Alarm	Bi Bi Bi (pause)	BEE BEE BEE (pause)
Over Heating Alarm	Bi Bi (pause)	BEE BEE (pause)
Over Load Alarm	Bi Bi Bi Bi Bi Bi	Continuous beep

The inverter can be used outdoors but not in wet weather.

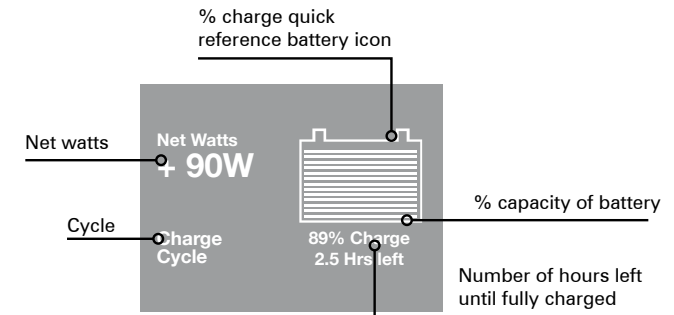
WARNING – DO NOT connect high power appliances like a hair dryer, iron, toaster, heater, corded power drill or kettle to the 240V outlet as they greatly exceed the max power output of the inverter and may damage it.



Main Data Screen Overview

The ArkPak's informative LCD screen displays all the required information regarding your charge process:

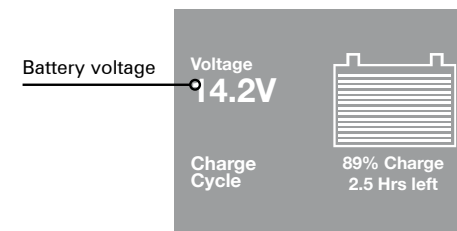
- Cycle (Charge, boost, float, discharge)
- Battery Voltage or net watts
- Battery Level Icon
- Battery Capacity %
- Hours remaining until fully charged (Time Tracker)



Changing the Screen Information

The net watts can be changed to battery voltage by pressing the down button for 1 second (Refer to page 4). By pressing the up button for 1 second the screen can be changed back to net watts.

Please note positive net watts indicates power going into the battery and negative net watts indicates power drawn from the battery.



Time Tracker Technology

The ArkPak has the ability to calculate the battery capacity in real time and predict the amount of time remaining until the battery is fully charged.

The tracking system can be recalibrated periodically to improve the accuracy. This is done by charging the battery in to float cycle using the AC adaptor, discharging to 0% (at a discharge rate of 60-70 watts) then recharging to float cycle again.

Overview of Charging Process:

The ArkPak seven stage smart charger is based on an advanced software program that monitors your battery. Smart charge will select from the following cycles to optimise your battery's performance.

Stage 1: Testing - Checks the battery capacity when the ArkPak is first turned on and predicts the hours left until fully charged.

Stage 2: Charge - commences recovery of battery back to peak voltage. Charges the battery up to a set voltage at which point the battery is approximately 95% charged. Please note if you are using an external charging source (e.g. solar panel) the screen will show "external cycle" after a few minutes of charging since the internal smart charger is bypassed.

Stage 3: Bulk - Period just before boost when volts are constant.

Stage 4: Boost - Peak charge for maximum performance. Battery is charged for 1.5 hours at constant voltage. At the end of boost the battery is 100% charged.

Stage 5: Resting - Allows the battery to consolidate after boost. The ArkPak ceases charging and allows the battery to rest while allowing voltage to drop to float voltage.

Stage 6: Float - Maintains performance and prolongs battery life. Battery is continually monitored and voltage is maintained at 13.5V (13.7V for lithium iron phosphate) by automatically adjusting charge current for 500 hours.

Stage 7: Re-Awaken - Exercising the battery and avoiding sulphation build-up. After 500 hours of conditioning the charger automatically returns to charge cycle.

Charging the Battery using Solar Panels (not supplied)

You can charge the battery via the external terminals using a solar panel array. To do this the isolator switch must be in the 'on' position. The smart charge PCB will be bypassed with this configuration so there will be no control over battery voltage. It is important to use an external voltage regulator (not supplied) when using solar panels. The main data screen will show "external cycle" after a few minutes of charging. In this case the time left figure is not displayed and the normal charging stages are bypassed.

Charging the Battery with an External Charger using the External Terminals or Accessory Sockets

Connecting the battery via the external terminals or accessory sockets to an external charging source can be done as long as your charging source is regulated. The reason is because this method bypasses the internal smart charger. The main data screen will show "external cycle" after a few minutes of charging in this case.

Powering a device

It is possible to power many types of 240V and 12V devices from the various outlet sockets on the ArkPak (refer to overview on page 2 and table on page 13). When powering a device the main data screen will show discharge cycle. It is okay to use the ArkPak to power a device whilst it is connected to mains power or DC power. To power a device from one of the outlets the isolator switch must be in the "on" position. Otherwise, the isolator switch should be in the 'off' position for safety. If the ArkPak is not charging the screen will always show discharge cycle. Please note the isolator connects or disconnects the outlets from the battery and does not affect the smart charger.

It is possible to power a device with the LCD screen turned off since the various output sockets are connected to battery via the main isolator switch and not via the smart charger.

Refer to page 10 on how to use the AC outlet. Details of other outlets are on page 13. Please note fuses for outlets are underneath the lid. If the battery cables are corrected in reverse polarity this will blow the 10A fuse marked "main" under the lid.

WARNING - If charging ArkPak from vehicle using car charging lead (refer to page 2) and powering a fridge at the same time ensure fridge is not earthed to vehicle chassis.

Fuse information

