

Addendum

Solar Panel

2006 Scepter®



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The following information supersedes the information in the 2006 Scepter Owner's Manual, Section 8 - Electrical Systems-House. Please utilize the information provided henceforth.

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The following information in the 06 Camelot manual, Section 8 on pages 212-214 has been superseded. The following information supersedes what was printed in the manual.

SOLAR PANEL (OPTIONAL)

The motorhome is equipped with a fully automatic solar-powered battery charging system. The system consists of one roof-mounted solar panel and a charge controller located in the curbside electrical compartment that is capable of charging the house batteries.

The solar panel is a laser-grooved, buried-grid panel that is capable of delivering about 2-3 amps of charge per hour in full sunlight (usually between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.). Extensive testing has shown that the solar panel delivers enough power to offset the normal day-to-day drain on batteries caused by various parasitic electrical loads such as alarm systems, natural self-discharge of batteries and other like items. This means that the solar panel is only intended to cover these parasitic loads while dry camping.

WARNING

The solar panel needs to be cleaned monthly. The solar panel may need to be cleaned more frequently depending on weather conditions.

Charge Controller

The Charge Controller was built to accommodate either Flooded Lead-Acid batteries or (sealed) Absorbed Glass Matte (AGM) batteries. The Charge Controller is limited to a maximum of three-amp charge.

The faceplate of the controller is used as a heat sink for the electronics. Therefore, it will become warm to the touch especially when processing higher amperage. Automatic thermal shutdown (indicated by the Load Disconnect red LED light) will activate if the charge controller gets too warm.

The jumper wire is removed from the two right hand terminals. This sets the float voltage for the controller to Flooded Wet Cell batteries. Installing the jumper lowers float voltage for Absorbed Glass Matte batteries. This feature resets the charge parameters to work with either flooded wet cell batteries or AGM batteries. Float voltage changes from 14.2 to 13.4 Volts, which is what the AGM battery manufacturer recommends.

CAUTION

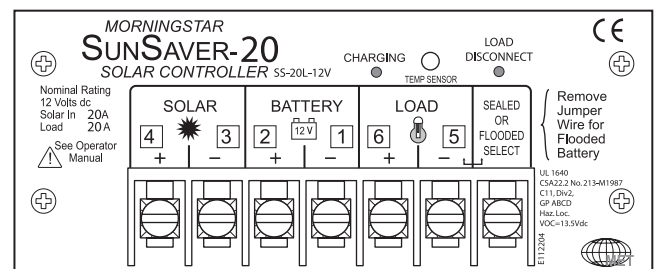
The Charge Controller panel may be warm to the touch. This is a normal function of the Charge Controller.

Green LED:

The Green LED (Charging) indicator illuminates whenever sunlight is available for battery charging. The green LED will turn off at night.

Red LED:

If the controller includes an automatic load disconnect feature, the red LED (Load Disconnect) illuminates whenever the battery charge state falls below the load disconnect setpoint. This indicates low voltage and that the charge controller has disconnected the load to protect the battery from further discharge and possible damage.



After the house battery has been externally re-charged between 40% and 50% of its rated capacity, the sunsaver controller will automatically reconnect and charge the house battery.

Inspection and Maintenance

The following inspections and maintenance tasks are recommended at least once per year for best charge controller performance.

1. Confirm that the correct battery type has been selected (sealed or flooded with jumper).
2. Confirm that the current levels of the PV (Photovoltaic) array and load do not exceed the ratings.
3. Tighten all terminals, inspect for loose, broken, or burnt wire connections. Be certain no loose strands of wire are touching other terminals.
4. Check that the charge controller is securely mounted in a clean environment. Inspect for dirt, insects, and corrosion.
5. Check that the air flow around the charge controller is not blocked.
6. Protect from direct sun and rain. Confirm that water is not collecting under the cover.
7. Check that the charge controller functions and LED indicators are correct for the system conditions at that time.

NOTE

Further information and instruction can be found by contacting Morningstar Corporation at (215) 321-4457, or at www.morningstarcorp.com

Solar Panel Care

A critical part of maintaining the solar powered battery charging system is keeping the panel clean.

The amount of power that a panel will produce is directly related to the intensity of sunlight that reaches the internal crystals. A dirty panel will allow less light to reach the crystals resulting in reduced power output. A layer of dust or road grime can reduce power output by 15 to 25%. Combining dust with leaves and debris that cover two or three of the individual cells can reduce output power by 50 to 75%.

Use of the basic maintenance tips, regular inspections and regular cleaning will assure maximum performance from the solar charging system.

To clean the panels use non-abrasive cleanser and paper towels. The surrounding environment and the amount of road dust encountered determines how frequently the panels should be cleaned. One to two times a month is preferred.

Tips to Follow:

1. The panels should be cleaned if a film or a layer of dust is on the windshield.
2. On a bright sunny day, charging current of 2 or 3 amps can be obtained during the peak charge cycle.
3. High winds blow dust and debris causing dirt build up on the panel. Frequently inspect the panel and clean as necessary.

CAUTION

To avoid arcing at battery connections when replacing batteries or performing battery cable maintenance, be sure to remove the fuse (located in the curbside electrical compartment) for the solar panel charge controller, or cover the solar panel, for example with a blanket, to stop the production of electricity at the source.



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