

TAKING CHARGE

Q Will my humble, 15-year-old charger with 4A, maintain the battery (which has '110' on the case – does this refer to Amps?) when left connected for long periods, or should I buy a new 12A to 16A charger? If I do, can this be left charging for long periods?

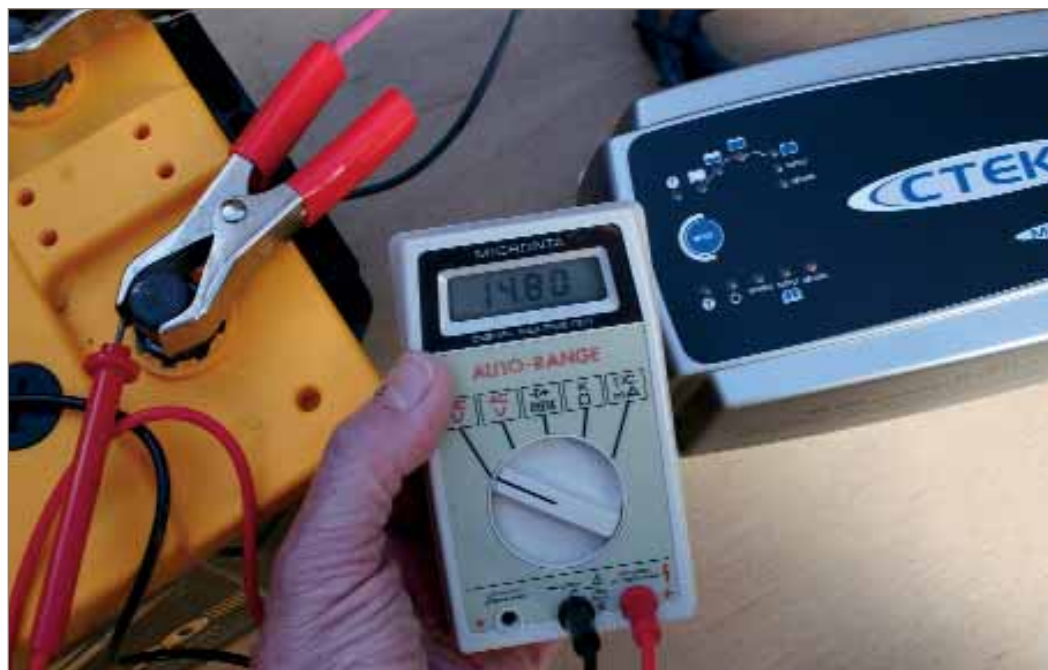
A The figure '110' refers to 'Amp-hours' (Ah) which is the battery capacity. In simplistic terms, it could supply 1A for 110 hours or 10A for 11 hours. Your 4A charger will slowly charge up your 110Ah leisure battery, but perhaps not in the best possible way if it is heavily discharged. From flat, it could take approximately 28 hours to charge (110/4).

Unless it is described as a 'maintenance' charger it should not be left connected indefinitely to a charged-up battery. At best this wastes power – at worst it could damage the battery.

A 12A to 16A charger would charge the battery more quickly, if that is what you require, but again should not be left connected permanently.

Here are some examples of chargers sold at Halfords (there are many other suppliers around, and the following are not necessarily the cheapest or best):

Basic charger (1200cc model) – the modern equivalent of the one you already have. This type is fine for a car battery and will charge a leisure battery – although not in an ideal way,



especially if it is flat. This is not a maintenance charger and should therefore not be left connected long-term. Cost: £22.

Small maintenance charger – ideally suited to keeping a battery fully charged long-term (indefinite connection). However, it may take a long time to recharge a flat, large-capacity battery. This type is ideal for an infrequently-used car or motor caravan and is okay

for use with a leisure battery. Cost: £24.

Fully automatic charger – will recharge a car or leisure battery in the optimum manner, even from flat. It will recharge a large-capacity battery relatively quickly from flat. It also has a maintenance function to keep a charged battery in good condition. This is probably the best choice for versatile use with car and caravan. However, it should still not be

necessary to have the battery on continuous charge – use via a time-switch instead to charge for a few hours a week, and keep your electricity usage down. Cost: £39.

For further information about battery care and charging, either download the *Lead Acid Batteries* leaflet from the Club website at caravanclub.co.uk or send an SAE with your request to the Club's Technical/Information department.

Jenny Norton, the Club's Information Officer, answers your questions

Please address your questions to:

JENNY NORTON

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...and quote your membership number

Hole in the roll

Q The hole on my old Aquaroll is too small for the pump I have just bought. Is there a modification I can make?

A To convert an older-style Aquaroll so it will accept modern, larger-diameter pumps, buy a Marley Extrusions PVCC plug and cover (part no KAP3, cost £8.90) from your local DIY store (eg B&Q or drain and plumbing centres). There is a cheaper option manufactured from ABS (part no

WAA5, cost £3.73), although it is probably false economy to buy this, as ABS does degrade in sunlight over time. If you are unable to source one, call Marley on 01622 852585 or see marleyplumbinganddrainage.com, where you will be prompted to enter your postcode for the nearest stockist.

Cut a 55mm diameter hole in the top of your Aquaroll using a holesaw so it will accept the fitting. Clean out the debris from the container, place the fitting into the hole until it sits on the shoulder and cement in place



using strong glue. It is a good idea to attach the cap to the handle for security purposes.

We need you!

Attention all members who own a manoeuvring device! Your opinion is needed by the Club's Information department in an online survey.

The information provided will help the ever-increasing number of members who contact the Club's Information department to make an informed decision on which one to buy. Make your views known by filling in the questionnaire at caravanclub.co.uk.

Click on 'Practical advice' and then the right-hand photo headed 'Manoeuvring devices'. Simply follow the prompts and answer the various questions. The survey only takes about 15 minutes. Your replies will provide the basis for a new, up-to-date version of the present *On Manoeuvres* leaflet.

