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How to use a stanley car battery charger

A car battery contains chemicals that produce hydrogen gas during use. Hydrogen gas is volatile and has been known to explode under certain conditions, causing serious injuries. For example, a car battery may explode while starting the car, while jump starting or by carelessly shorting the terminals with a screwdriver. In fact, under certain conditions a car battery may explode while just sitting in a parked car or on a table [source: battery-chargers].Keeping this mind, here's how to safely use a car battery charger:Use the correct charger for your particular car battery. Check the car owner's manual for information (or ask your car dealer or trusted auto mechanic).Read the charger manual and make sure you understand how the charger works and what precautions are necessary. Pay close attention to all the warnings.Remove both battery cables from the battery terminals. First remove the negative (black) cable and then the positive (red) cable.Check that the charger is not plugged in to an electric outlet and that the power switch is off.Connect the positive (usually red) charger cable to the positive (+) battery terminal and the negative (usually black) cable to the negative (-) battery terminal.Decide whether you want to charge the battery slowly (trickle charge) or quickly. Select a lower charging voltage and current for a trickle charge and a higher setting for a quicker charge. Check the charger manual for the proper settings. Note that trickle charging gives the best results.Select whether the charger will run for a specific amount of time or automatically shut off when the battery is charged. Not all chargers have this feature.Leave the charger or cables in one place while the battery is charging.Turn off and unplug the charger when the battery is fully charged.Disconnect the cables, starting with the negative cable, and then moving on to the positive cable [source: CarsDirect].Originally Published: May 11, 2011 Car battery chargers come in all shapes, sizes, price ranges and options. Reading the information that the switches and gauges are telling you once it's hooked up to a battery is generally the same no matter what kind of charger you have. You get what you pay for in life, so the more elaborate the charger, the more expensive it will be, and the more options you'll have with it. Hook the red positive clamp to the positive battery terminal (in or out of the car) without the battery charger being plugged into an outlet or the power button turned on. Some battery chargers do not have a power button and automatically turn on when plugged in. Hook the negative clamp to the negative battery terminal. Read all the other switches before powering up the charger for the correct options. Most chargers have switch options for amp settings and battery types. Some more elaborate chargers may offer different volt settings. For a car battery, you need to switch to conventional battery or non-deep-cycle battery. You want to switch the volt setting (some chargers automatically come equipped with only a 12-volt charging option, as most car batteries are 12 volt) to 12 volts. Last, the amp setting option depends on how quickly or slowly you want to charge the battery. The lower the amperage, the longer the charge will take; the higher the setting, the less time the charge will take. On some chargers, there may also even be a high or "start" option, and this can be used to jump-start your car battery using the charger. Place the amp setting to accommodate your desired task with the battery. Plug the battery charger in, and or turn on the power button. In some cases, turning a timer dial will power up the charger after it's been plugged in. This timer can be set for any amount of time you wish to charge the battery and will automatically power down the charger when the time expires. Read the charging gauge of the battery charger to determine what life is left for charge in the battery. This gauge may differ slightly depending on models of chargers, but the information is relatively the same. It will show how much life is in the battery and, in some applications, how much of a charge percentage the battery needs. In most battery chargers, there will be a power light indicating that there is power to the charger, and there may also be a "full charge" indicator light that would alert you that the battery has obtained a full charge and is finished. With some lower-end models, you may have to read the gauge and wait for the "100% charge" or similar indicator. Disengage the battery charger clamps when you're done with the battery but only after you have powered down the battery charger. Batteries contain volatile acids that create flammable gases and, in some rare occurrences, can ignite and explode if a spark is present when disengaging the clamps from the battery terminals. By powering down the charger (whether you turn the power off, turn the timer to zero or unplug the charger from the electrical outlet first), you will eliminate this risk. Imagine that you wake up one winter morning, in a rush for your daily commute to the office. You dash out the door and into your car -- only to discover that it simply won't start. Or worse, think about returning to the airport after a long trip to find a drained car battery and no other drivers in sight.Fortunately, you can avoid this stressful situation in the future by plugging in the solar battery charger that your gadget-loving dad proudly gave you on your last visit. You'll also extend the life of your car's battery, helping you save money and protect your investment.A solar car charger converts light energy into a DC current. They obtain energy from the sun, although they can also be used in low light or cloudy applications. Portable solar chargers are used for trickle charging, meaning that low level current is fed continuously to the battery so that it maintains its charge, although some models can be used to completely recharge a car battery.Solar car chargers feature solar panels on the face. All you have to do is simply place it near a window or on top of your car's dashboard to absorb sunlight during the day. Some solar car battery chargers connect directly to the battery, while others feed power to the battery via the cigarette lighter/power socket.Car solar battery chargers are a relatively inexpensive way (popular models range from \$20 to \$95) to extend the life of your vehicle's battery. Since they rely on energy from the sun, there's no additional cost.In addition, using a car solar battery to maintain a charge can help give you peace of mind that your car battery will work when you need it. All in all, it's an eco-friendly way to maintain your vehicle.For more information on automobile features, see the links on the next page.

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