

Charging that New Battery

By Stan Grett and Jim Kale

From Wiregrass RC, Enterprise, Alabama

In recent months, we have heard a lot of discussion on how to charge a new airborne battery or transmitter battery. Charge times have been recommended from 12-24 hours. Dave Thacker of Radical RC is the battery guy I listen to.

He recommends charging the new battery packs at 1/10 of the mAh, which is normally referred to as "C." This rate is often referred to in magazine articles and manufacturers' directions as C/10. He recommends that rate for 16 hours. Most NiCD manufacturers also recommend this.

So, if your battery is rated at 1500 mAh; then charge it at 150 mAh for 16 hours.

Be careful, if your charger charges at less than the C/10 rate, you will have to charge it longer. However, extremely long over charges are bad for the battery pack and will shorten its life. Also high charge rates can shorten the battery life if there is anything overcharging at all.

Cycling a new battery pack will help it get off to a good start in its new life. A good regiment to follow is to cycle it for three charge/discharge cycles over a week-long period. If it passes this test, it should give a good long life if maintained and charged properly.

Cycling a new battery pack before the start of each flying season and after the flying season will give you a good idea how the battery pack is holding up over a period of years.

Generally speaking, any battery that is more than three years old is on borrowed time. However, I do know of cases where battery packs lasted as long as seven years. You are betting your airplane though if you try to squeeze just a little more out of your battery pack than it has to give. Battery packs are cheap when compared to replacing airplanes.

A few minutes of searching on the net provided me with a LOT of "charging" information. If your are interested in reading more on batteries/charging, go to the following web sites. CB

http://www.national.com/appinfo/power/files/f7.pdf

http://www.greenbatteries.com/bachfa.html

http://www.batteryuniversity.com/partone-11.htm

It was a bitterly cold winter day. A man went fishing and cut a hole in the ice, but didn't catch a thing. Then a young boy came along, cut a hole in the ice nearby and proceeded to catch fish after fish.

Eventually the man went over to the boy and said: "I've been here six hours and haven't caught one fish. Yet you've been here 45 minutes and you've caught at least ten. What's your secret?"

The boy replied: "Roo raf roo reep ra rurms rarm."

"Sorry," said the man. "I didn't catch that."

"Roo raf roo reep ra rurms rarm."

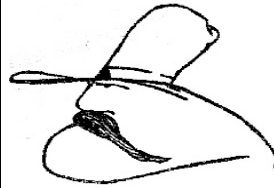
"I'm sorry. I can't understand a word you're saying"

The boy spat a wad of ugly brown slime into his hand and said: "You have to keep the worms warm!"

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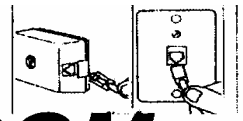


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