



# **BVA-350** Operator's Manual

### Hand Held-Accuracy with a 40 Amp Load

The BVA-350 is the a hand-held tester that is the auto industry's answer to portability in a professionally accurate battery load tester, charging system analysis and voltage drop testing.



# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

# LIMITED WARRANTY



You have purchased one of Auto Meter's hand-held Battery, Starting and Charging System Analyzers. It is designed to test each component of a vehicle's electrical system with speed and accuracy. If you should have any questions about your tester, testing procedures or service see the last page of this for contact information.

#### BVA 350

Load Test Capacity	40 Amp
Battery Sizes	100-1600 CCA
Digital Display	1" x 2.5" - 4 line x 16 character
Volt Ranges	Digital 0-30
Cooling	Heat Sink Ventilation
Leads	Load Amp-4 ft., 16 Gauge
Size	3 3/4" x 6 3/4" x 1"
Memory	stores the last 100 tests
Internal Battery	9 Volt Alkaline
External Lead Sets	10 ft.
Optional PR-12	
Optional AC-12	PC Interface adapter cord
Optional AC-24J	Carrying case only
Optional AC-32	Serial Port to USB adapter
Optional AC-62	AMP Link Data Download PC Software
Weight	1.36 lbs.

# What to Expect from the BVA-350:

*Immediately determine battery condition and perform a complete starting and charging system analysis.* The BVA-350 is a portable full-featured menu-driven battery tester and system analyzer that provides quick, professional load results using Auto Meter's Pulsed Load. The BVA-350 is user friendly. It tells you what to do. The stator-diode test automatically indicates open or shorted stator-diodes. It is professionally accurate. The alternator test has the option of checking the charging cables at the same time or you can use the Voltage Drop Test to test both the charging and starting cables. Detailed test results are LCD displayed after each test and can be reviewed and/or printed from memory.

#### 12 MONTHS FROM DATE OF PURCHASE-CABLES 90 DAYS

The manufacturer warrants to the consumer that this product will be free from defects in material or workmanship for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of original purchase.

Products that fail within this 12 month warranty period will be repaired or replaced at the manufacturer's option to the consumer, when determined by the manufacturer that the product failed due to defects in material or workmanship. This warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of parts and the necessary labor by the manufacturer to effect the repair or replacement of the product. In no event shall the manufacturer be responsible for special, incidental or consequential damages or costs incurred due to the failure of this product.

Improper use, accident, water damage, abuse, unauthorized repairs or alterations voids this warranty. The manufacturer disclaims any liability or consequential damages due to breach of any written or implied warranty on its test equipment.

#### WARRANTY AND SERVICE INFORMATION

Warranty claims to the manufacturer's service department must be transportation prepaid and accompanied by a dated proof of purchase. This warranty applies only to the original purchaser and is non-transferable. Freight damage incurred during return shipments is not covered under this warranty. It is the responsibility of the shipper (the customer returning the Test Equipment) to package the tester properly to prevent any damage during return shipment. Repair costs for such damages will be charged back to shipper (customer returning the Test Equipment). Protect the product by shipping in original carton or add plenty of over-pack cushioning such as crumpled up newspaper.

### **PC INTERFACE**



#### From the Main Menu scroll down to **DOWNLOAD**

REVIEW/PRINT VOLT METER	Ϯ
>DOWNLOAD	
SETUP	4.

The following will be displayed



Using Auto Meter's optional adapter cord AC-12 insert the stereo plug into the jack on the BVA-350 and then plug the serial adapter into a free serial port on the rear of your computer or connect to AC-32 serial port to USB adapter. Follow the instructions of the AC-62 AMP Link Data Download software to retrieve data from the BVA-350.

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**Note:** The BVA-350 performs a load tests 6 volt and 12 volt batteries and tests 12 Volt and 24 Volt starting and charging systems. The following examples illustrated are for a 12 Volt system. The BVA-350 automatically identifies the appropriate voltage and displays the menu selection and instructions needed for that system.

### SAFETY

- Carefully read all operating instructions before using the BVA-350
- Wear proper protection when working around batteries.
- Be sure each test is complete before removing load clamps to prevent arcing and potential explosion from battery gases. Keep sparks flames, or cigarettes away from batteries.
- Keep hair, hands, and clothing as well as tester leads and cords away from moving blades and belts.
- Provide adequate ventilation to remove car exhaust.
- In extremely cold temperatures, check for frozen electrolytic fluid before applying load. Do not attempt

to Load Test or charge a battery under 20 degrees. Allow the battery to warm to room temperature before testing or charging.

Warning! Never attach the BVA-350 to a battery that is connected to any other tester or charging unit. Damage may result.

#### WARNING! TESTING OF HYBRID VEHICLES

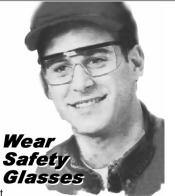
**DO NOT** test the starter, alternator and/or 12 volt starting battery while it is in the vehicle.

**DO NOT** remove, service or test the hybrid battery pack under any circumstances.

*Remove* the 12 volt starting battery, starter or alternator from the vehicle prior to testing.

# **CAUSE OF BATTERY FAILURE**

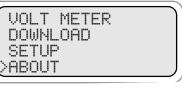
- Incorrect Application: Wrong size battery may have inadequate cold cranking Amp rating for original vehicle specifications.
- Incorrect Installation: Loose battery hold-downs cause excessive vibration, which can result in damage to the battery plates.
- Improper Maintenance: Low electrolytic fluid and corrosion on battery connections can greatly reduce battery life and affect battery performance.
- Age of Battery: If the date code on the battery indicates it is old, the failure may be caused by natural causes.
- **Overcharging:** Overcharging caused by a high voltage regulator setting or incorrect battery charging can cause excessive gassing, heat and water loss.
- Undercharging: Undercharging caused by a faulty charging system or low voltage regulation can cause lead sulfate to gradually build up and crystallize on the plates greatly reducing the battery's capacity and ability to be charged.

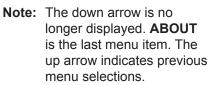


## ABOUT

From the main menu scroll down to the last selection.





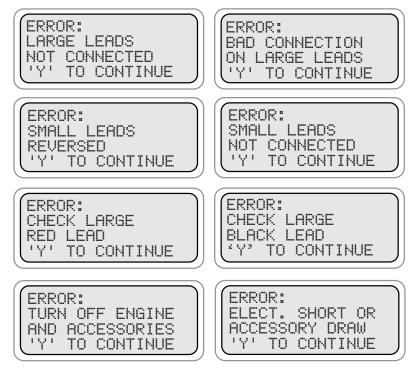




# Press (Y Enter) and the version will be displayed.

# **VOLTAGE DROP TEST ERROR MESSAGES**

One of the following may appear during any drop test sequence. Correct the situation before continuing.

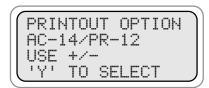


System noise indicates some device is turned on. Correct by turning vehicle loads off before continuing. Check Tester connections and make sure vehicle loads are off.

### **SETUP** (cont.)



USE TEST RESULT NEAR END OF LIFE USE +/-'Y' TO SELECT



To toggle battery test results between "GOOD" or "BAD" only and "NEAR END OF LIFE", use + or to change setting then use 'Y' to select.

To print to an Auto Meter stand alone IR printer choose "AC-14/ PR-12". To print to the Auto Meter high speed PR-16 printer using the Auto Meter XTC-160 charger/ tester and IR-1 printer interface choose "XTC-160/PR-16. To print to a network printer using the POSI-160 choose "POSI-160".

# DO YOU WANT TO ENTER STORE INFO 'N' OR 'Y'

Press 'Y' to enter or change the store address for use on print outs or 'N' to continue.

### **Entry Hints**

Note: Address one & two and city have a max of 23 characters.

To change the text or number press the (+) or (-) keys. If you press 'N' at the beginning of the screen, no changes will be made. To make changes, use the (+) and (-) keys then press 'Y' to save the change. The cursor will then go to the next character or number. If you are done making changes but there is more text keep pressing 'Y' until the cursor is on a blank space at the end of the lines of text. Pressing 'N' moves back the cursor position back one character. Pressing Print saves the text up to the cursor position. Any text after is deleted.

# **INSPECTION**

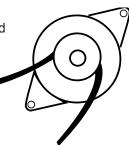
Valid automotive electrical system testing depends on all the components being in good operating



condition. In addition, the battery MUST have sufficient charge for testing. Carefully perform the following before attempting any electrical diagnosis.

# **VISUAL CHECK**





ELECTROLYTE

Inspect Battery for terminal corrosion, loose or broken posts, cracks in the case, loose hold-downs, low electrolyte level, moisture and dirt around the terminals.

- Inspect Starting System. Check starter, solenoid, and regulator for loose connections, loose mounts and frayed or cracked wires.
- Important Note: A known defective battery must be replaced before proceeding.

# **CONTROLS AND FUNCTIONS**

LCD:

Displays menus and test results.

#### **KEYS**:

When pressed, a beep sounds to assure contact has been made.

#### On/Off Key:

The display will show "READY TO CONNECT!" when the unit is turned on.

#### Y Enter Key:

Selects the next menu, the cursor line item and answers 'yes' to a test progression.

#### +Up Kev:

Moves the cursor up in order to select a menu line item and increments certain displayed values.

#### -Down Arrow Key:

Moves the cursor down in order

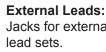
to select a menu line and decrements certain displayed values.

#### N Esc Key:

Cancels a test or progression. It also returns to the previous menu.

#### **Print** Key:

Point the BVA-350 infrared print light towards the Optional PR-12 infrared printer receiver and press the print key. Test results will be printed.











Jacks for external

# Infrared Print Light:

Infrared data is transmitted to the printer

PC Download Jack: Adapter cord AC-12 can be inserted.

### SETUP



Scroll Down to Setup, Select setup by pressing Y





SET TEMPERATURE SCALE: F USE +/-'Y' TO SELECT

>DEFAULT BATTERY

TO SELECT

TO SELECT

DO YOU WANT TO

DISPLAY MEASURED

BATTERY CAPACITY

uγi

'N' OR

DEFAULT CCA

RATING: CCA

USE +/-

AS: 600

USE +/-

iγi

SET

·Υ۲

Choose between English, Spanish, or French using the + and - keys to change the language. Press 'Y' to select.

Select the temperature in Fahrenheit

Select the rating from CCA, MCA, CA, AH, EN.

or Centigrade.

You can also select the default rating to be the last entered CCA value or a particular amount such as 600 CCA.

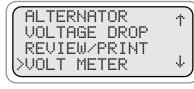
If 'Y' is chosen, the measured battery capacity will be displayed on the battery test result screen and print out. If 'N' is chosen no measured battery capacity will be displayed or printed.

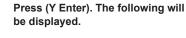
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### **VOLT METER**



Unusual problems with a battery and the need to localize loss of current can be determined with the manual volt reading. From the main menu scroll down to Volt Meter.

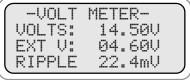




-VOLT

VOLTS:

EXT V:



bad diodes in the alternator.

0.36POS 0.20NEG Note: If the car is running and the clamps are attached to the battery a high ripple (over 50.0 mv) indicates

Press the (-Down) key and the POS and NEG cable results are displayed.

METER-

13.940

14.50V

### MAINTENANCE



### **CLAMP MAINTENANCE:**



CHECK OFTEN FOR LOOSE JAWS OR DAMAGED INTERNAL INSULATOR

Both jaws of each clamp must firmly engage the battery terminal The wire soldered to the copper insert jaw must be insulated from the other wire soldered to the opposite handle. This insulation is required so than one can read the Amps and the other can read the Volts. Damaged clamps or loose wires will affect readings. Make sure the copper jaw insert is properly insulated from the clamp and the clamps are clean and in good repair.

Over time the battery clamps will need to be replaced if any of the following are indicated:

- CCA values seem extreme.
- If there is continuity between the copper insert and the clamps.
- If there is excessive damage or corrosion to the cables or clamps.

### CLAMP and BATTERY REPLACEMENT

- Remove the screws from the back cover.
- Separate top and bottom cover and open like a book leaving the ribbon in contact with the PC board that will remain with the back cover.
- **CLAMPS:** Remove the cables and strain relief. With the new load clamp leads pointing down; insert the new strain relief into the back cover. Make sure the red clamp wires are attached to the left two screws of the green screw terminal (labeled POS) and the black clamp wires are connected to the right two screws (labeled NEG). It does not matter if either of the two red clamp wires is switched. The same applies to the two black clamp wires. Just make sure the red clamp wires are to the left (POS) and the black clamp wires are to the right. (NEG)
- **BATTERY:** Remove the battery and replace with a 9 Volt battery. Match the (+) on the new battery with the (+) on the PC board.
- Reverse the procedure to assemble the unit.



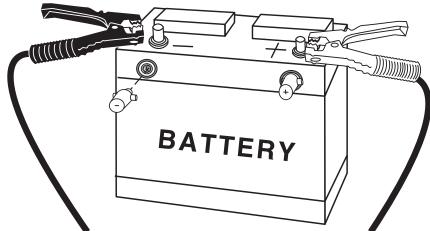
### **HOOK UP**

Press the On/Off button: Connect the clamps as instructed on the LCD.



Enter the approximate battery temperature in degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius (seen note) then press (Y Enter).

Note: Go to the setup to change temp scale to Celsius. The temperature request only appears once for each battery tested. If the clamps are disconnected you will be prompted again to begin a new battery test.



**Note!** Take special care when connecting to battery side terminals. If necessary use a side post adapter to prevent thread damage. When testing dual post batteries always connect load clamps to the post to which the system is attached.

#### **CONNECTION ERRORS**

- If the clamps are reversed the Reversed Connection screen will flash.
- If one or both of the clamps are not in complete contact (including both jaws) CHECK CONNECTIONS! will flash.

# **PRINTING TEST RESULTS**

**PR-12** 



Point the BVA-350 in the direction of the PR-12 printer

with the printer's IR receiver pointed in the direction of the BVA-350. Press (Print). You should be within 15 ft of the printer. Wait

for the screen to clear before moving the BVA-350. It takes a moment to send all the test data. The BVA-350 also operates the AC-14 printer installed in Auto Meter's XTC-160 tester/charger or BVA-2100 heavy-duty tester/analyzer or Auto Meter's PR-16 Printer when used with a XTC-160 and IR-1 Printer Interface.

- Make sure the Infrared Printer is properly set up.
  After a test is made with the
- After a test is made with the BVA-350 make sure the results are displayed on the LCD.
- Point the BVA-350 in the direction of the Infrared Printer (within 15 ft.)
- Press the <Print> key and the test results will be printed.
- Depending upon the test made the printer will sometimes yield more information than the LCD.





# **OTHER MENU ITEMS**

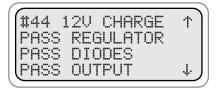


# **REVIEW TESTS**

Scroll Down to Review/Print



The last test will be displayed.



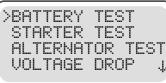
Press (Y Enter) to select

Review/Print.

Press (N Esc.) to select previous test. Press (+Up) or (-Down) key to select the desired test.

**BATTERY TEST** 

2

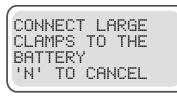




 $\mathbf{J}_{i}$ 

Select Battery Test from the main menu and then press (Y Enter).

If any of the tests (battery test or starter test, or alternator test) are selected and the clamps are not connected to the battery the following screen will appear.



Press 'Y' to continue, once the clamps are connected the test will proceed.

ENTER BATTERY TEMP: 70F USE +/-'Y' TO CONTINUE

Use the (+Up) or (-Down) keys to adjust the battery temperature. Press 'Y' to enter the temperature.

If the battery temperature is above 180°F the battery is too hot to safely test. the following screens will appear.



THE BATTERY

NEEDS TO COOL

BEFORE TESTING

'Y' TO CONTINUE

Pressing 'Y' or 'N' will return to the main menu. Let the battery cool before testing

CHOOSE BATT TYPE STARTING STANDRD USE +/-'Y' TO CONTINUE

Press the (+Up) or (-Down) key to cycle through the battery types. Press 'Y' when it matches the type of battery you are testing. BATTERY TYPE OPTIONS: STARTING STANDRD STARTING AGM DEEP CYCLE AGM DEEP CYCLE STD

### **BATTERY TEST (Cont.)**



### **VOLTAGE DROP TEST (Cont.)**

>CONNECT SMALL

CLIPS TO THE

>CONNECT LARGE

PLEASE WAIT ...

S# 22010 T#28

VOLTAGE DROP AT

0.33 POS 0.32 NEG

250 AMPS:0.65V

UNRNP

CLAMPS TO OTHER

'Y' TO CONTINUE

END OF CIRCUIT

'Y' TO CONTINUE

BATTERY

LOADING

T#28



Connect small leads to the battery or along the circuit being tested as illustrated in the setup and press (Y Enter)

Then connect large leads to either the alternator or starter or any generic load such as a winch or even a stereo connected to the battery.

If all connections are correct, wait for a load to be applied.

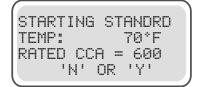
The results will vary depending upon and the conditions of the cables. Both the positive and negative circuit results will be indicated from the single test.

If the overall voltage drop is not within the desired specifications the small red lead can be moved closer along the line being tested at some junction and the test can be run again. If the results are desirable, it is the section not included in the second test, but included in the first that is bad. If the results are still not desirable, you can move the small red lead closer and retest until you locate the problem.

>ENTER RATED CCA 600 USE +/-12.50V 'Y' TO CONTINUE

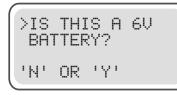
Press the (+Up) or (-Down) key to increment or decrement to the rated CCA of the battery.

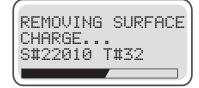
### SUMMARY SCREEN



Confirm that the inputs are correct. Press "Y" if they are correct. The test will start. Press "N" to re-enter battery type, temp, and rating.

If the reading is below 7.2 Volts you will get the following:





TESTING BATTERY PLEASE WAIT... S#22010 T#32 Surface charge removed if detected.

Bar at the bottom of the screen will show the tests progress.

Wait for test results.

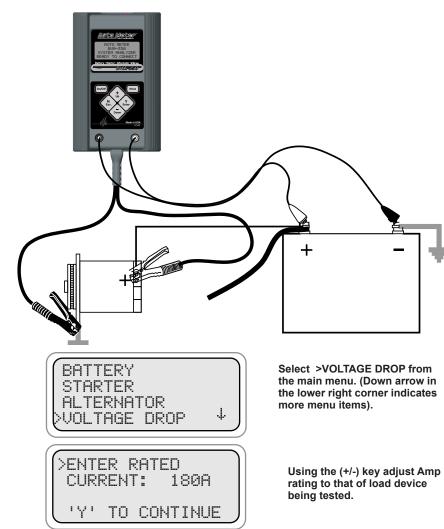
The BVA-350 serial number and test number are displayed to help reference the test to the print out.





### **VOLTAGE DROP TEST**

The generic setup can be used in all the previous applications as well as it can be used to test the entire circuit, or any particular sections of any circuit that includes battery, cables and any load.



### **BATTERY TEST (Cont.)**



After the Digital Pulse Load Test is completed results similar to one of the following sample screens will appear.



Battery passes testing. Return to service.



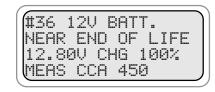
Battery did not have sufficient remaining capacity to pass tests. Battery should be replaced immediately.

#34 12V BATT. GOOD NEEDS CHRG 12.24V CHG 50% MEAS CCA 600

Charge battery and place into service.

#35	120	BAT	IT.	
	RGE		EST	
12.		CHG		
UΥ	ТО	CONT	TINUE	

Battery did not have a sufficient charge for a Digital Pulse Load Test. Charge and retest battery.



Battery passes testing and is near end of life. Battery is ok for mild climate. May not start vehicle in hot or cold conditions.

# **STARTER TEST**

further test the starting system if necessary

Symptomatic Check before Proceeding:



WEAR SAFETY GLASSES

# **ALTERNATOR TEST RESULTS**



Test result will appear. The following are examples.





Alternator output is too low.

Alternator passed all tests.



The alternator diodes are bad.



The alternator voltage regulator has failed and the voltage is either too high or too low.



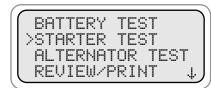
The voltage drop across the cables is too large.

Check all cables and connections. Check the battery for corrosion and dirty terminals.

- Check starter/solenoid for visual defects.
- Check the ignition switch and any magnetic switches for loose or bad wiring, loose mounting, or connections and sticking contacts.
- Check for starter/solenoid noise. The type of noise or the lack thereof can help in diagnosing the problem.
- Does the solenoid click, but the starter does not turn? Does the starter turn, but not engage the flywheel? Is the starter sluggish?
- **Note:** A remote starter switch can be used to bypass the ignition switch and crank the engine from under the hood. This way the sounds of the starter can be heard.

# STARTER TEST

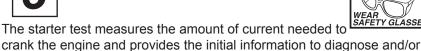
Press (N Esc.) to return to main menu. Select Starter Test then press (Y Enter).



Use the (+Up) and (-Down) to move cursor to the desired test



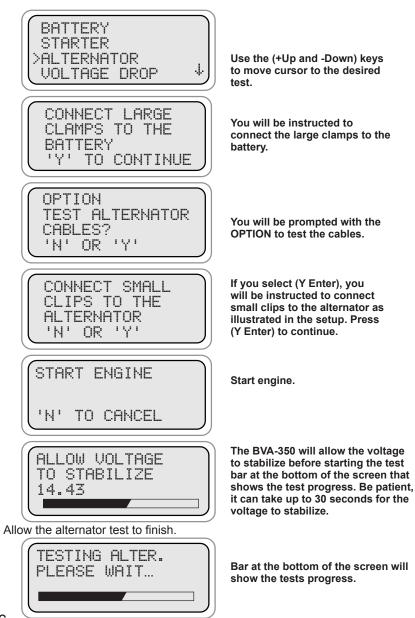
Press (Y) and tester prepares for the starter test. Bar at the bottom of the screen will show the progress.





### **ALTERNATOR TEST**

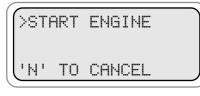
*Note:* Battery should be in good condition and near full state of charge before proceeding with this test. Press (N Esc.) to return to main menu. Select **Alternator Test** then press (Y Enter).



IMPORTANT WEAR SAFETY GLASSES

# **STARTER TEST (Cont.)**

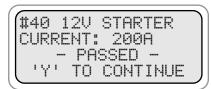
Wait for instructions before cranking engine.



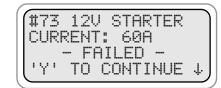


The BVA-350 will test the starting system. A bar at the bottom of the screen will show the tests progress.

If the current draw is between 75A & 250A (for gas powered engines) the starting system is likely good and the following screen will appear



If the current is under 75A a solenoid connection or corrosion problem is likely and the following screens appear.



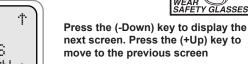
Press the (-Down) key to display the next screen. Press Y or N to go to the main menu.



### **STARTER TEST (Cont.)**





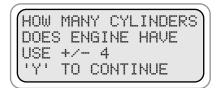


ſ	IF	ALL	СК	GOOD	1
				BENCH FARTER	

If the current is over 250A, the system will need more information to determine if the starter is good. The next screen will ask what type of engine you are testing.

ſ	WHAT	TYF	E ENGI	NE
			TESTIN	G?
	Card, Card, Sona	+/- .TO	DIESEL	115
U	-	. 10	CONTIN	

Use the +/- key to choose between gas and diesel.



If the engine is diesel the system will need to know the number of cylinders the engine has. Use the +/key to choose either 4, 5, 6, or 8.

The chart on page 15 shows the current limits for the different engine types. If the starter is likely to have a problem the following screens will appear.





Advice for what to do next.

# STARTER TEST (Cont.)





Use the (+ Up) and (-Down) keys to scroll through the screens. Press Y or N to go to the main menu.

If manufacturer's specifications are not available the chart below can be used as a general guideline. The amounts are in Amps.

	5 Cyl Gas Up to 250A	8 Cyl Gas Up to 250A
4 Cyl Gas Up to 350A		8 Cyl Dsl Up to 650A

If the results are out of specification do the following:

- Inspect the connectors for excessive voltage drop.
- Repair or replace any defective cables or connectors.
- Retest the system.

If still out of specifications: **High** Amp reading may indicate engine is out of time or a faulty starter. Some possible causes are shorted windings, bent armature, broken housing or bad bearings.

### STARTING CURRENT DRAW AND DIESEL ENGINES

There are a few points to consider in testing a starting system on a diesel engine. The BVA-350 is designed to recognize any significant amount of draw; this includes glow plugs in small diesel engines. In heavy-duty applications consider computer and accessory draw.

- Make sure you start the engine quickly. The engine should be warm.
- Turn the ignition on and allow the glow plugs to heat up and click off before you run the Starting Test.
- Repeat the test in different ways and compare results.