

SOLAR[®]

BATTERY TESTERS

SOLAR Battery and System Tester (Model No. BA44)



⚠ WARNING



Failure to follow instructions may cause damage or explosion, always shield eyes. **Read entire instruction manual before use.**

Warning: This product contains chemicals, including lead, known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. **Wash hands after handling.**

WARNING



Read these instructions completely before using the **SOLAR** tester and save them for future reference. Before using the tester near a car, truck or boat, read these instructions and the instruction manual/safety information provided by the car, truck, boat or equipment manufacturer. Following all manufacturers' instructions and safety procedures will reduce the risk of accident.



Working around lead-acid batteries may be dangerous. Lead-acid batteries release explosive gases during normal operation, charging and jump starting. Carefully read and follow these instructions for safe use. Always follow the specific instructions in this manual and on the **SOLAR** tester each time you use it. All lead-acid batteries (car, truck and boat) produce hydrogen gas which may violently explode in the presence of fire or sparks. **Do not smoke, use matches or a cigarette lighter while near batteries.** Do not handle the battery while wearing vinyl clothing because static electricity sparks are generated when vinyl clothing is rubbed. Review all cautionary material on the tester and in the engine compartment.



Always wear eye protection, appropriate protective clothing and other safety equipment when working near lead-acid batteries. Do not touch eyes while working on or around lead-acid batteries.



Use extreme care while working within the engine compartment, because moving parts may cause severe injury. Read and follow all safety instructions published in the vehicle's Owner's Manual.



Batteries being tested with the **SOLAR** tester likely contain liquid acids which are hazardous if spilled.

Personal Precautions

Someone should always be within range of your voice or close enough to come to your aid when you work near a lead-acid battery.

Have plenty of fresh water and soap nearby in case battery acid contacts skin, clothing or eyes. Protective eyewear should always be worn when working near lead-acid batteries.

If battery acid contacts skin or clothing, wash immediately with soap and water. If acid enters eye, immediately flood eye with cold running water for at least 10 minutes and get medical attention immediately.

Be extra cautious to reduce risk of dropping a metal tool onto a battery. It might spark or short circuit the battery or another electrical part that may cause explosion.

Remove personal metal items such as rings, bracelets, necklaces and watches when working with a lead-acid battery. A lead-acid battery can produce a short-circuit current high enough to weld a ring or the like to metal, causing a severe burn.

Use the tester for testing lead-acid batteries only. Do not use for testing dry-cell batteries that are commonly used with home appliances.

NEVER test, charge or jump start a frozen battery.

Do not submerge in water.

Do not operate with flammables such as gasoline, etc.

If the tester receives a sharp blow or is otherwise damaged in any way, have it checked by a qualified service person.

Do not disassemble the tester. Have it checked by a qualified service person.

About Your SOLAR Battery and System Tester (Model No. BA44)

Battery Tester Model BA44 is designed to test 6 and 12 Volt batteries and 12 Volt charging systems. It offers quick and accurate assessment of battery condition and starting and charging system performance. It features long leads and a backlit display for easy viewing in bright or low light environments.

The tester is compatible with a wide range of battery types, including Conventional, Maintenance Free, AGM, Gel Cell, Marine Starting, Spiral Wound and Deep Cycle (with starting rating) batteries. The tester can test these types of batteries against several battery capacity rating systems. Below is a chart of the operating range of the tester based on the applicable capacity rating systems:

<i>Rating System</i>	<i>Testing Capacity</i>
CCA	40-2000 CCA
DIN	25-1300 CCA
IEC	30-1500 CCA
EN	40-2100 CCA
JIS	Over 50 Models

The tester has recommended operating ambient temperature range of 32°F to 122°F.

Preparing Battery to Be Tested

Warning: Always wear eye protection, appropriate protective clothing and other safety equipment when working near lead-acid batteries. Do not touch eyes while working on or around lead-acid batteries.

1. Be sure area around battery is well ventilated while battery is being tested.
2. Clean battery terminals. Wire brush them if necessary. Be careful to keep corrosion from coming in contact with eyes.
3. Inspect the battery for cracked or broken case or cover. If the battery is damaged, do not use tester.
4. If the battery is not a sealed Maintenance Free battery, add distilled water in each cell until battery acid reaches level specified by the manufacturer. This helps purge excessive gas from cells. Be careful not to overfill.
5. Confirm that all vehicle accessories are turned OFF to ensure you do not cause any arcing and that the tested battery has a nominal voltage of 12 Volts.
6. If it is necessary to remove battery from vehicle to test, always remove ground terminal from battery first.

Tester Preparation and Set-up

Installing Batteries

Open battery chambers (2) on the back of each handle and install (2)1.5V batteries into each battery chamber.

Once the battery installation process is complete, please note that nothing will appear on the tester display until it is connected to a 6 or 12 Volt battery.

Note: When the internal batteries run out of power, the tester display will read "INTERNAL BATTERY LOW". When this happens, replace internal batteries before performing any additional tests.

Battery Tester Controls



Tester Configuration

Note: The tester does not have a back button or any means by which to backtrack through the various functional steps. At any point in a particular process, there are only two ways to get back to either the Home Screen or the Function Screen: complete the current process or disconnect and reconnect the tester.

You must be properly connected to a battery (See *Battery Tester Operation: Battery Testing, steps 1-3*) with internal batteries installed to configure the tester.

Upon proper battery connection (with internal batteries installed), the tester display will splash the **SOLAR** logo for two seconds and then proceed to the Home Screen. The Home Screen shows the battery status by providing the Open Circuit Voltage of the connected battery.

Note: The “Left Key” will be referred to as the “Enter” function for the remainder of this manual. The “Right Key” controls all scrolling or toggle functions. Scrolling or toggling can be done with both sides of the right key, forward/increase on the right portion of the key, backward/decrease on the left portion.

Press “ENTER” (left key) to enter the Function Screen, which offers three options: BATTERY TEST, SYSTEM TEST or CONFIGURATION. Using the right key, scroll to CONFIGURATION and press “ENTER” to go to the CONFIGURATION Screen.

The CONFIGURATION Screen provides three options: LANGUAGE, BRIGHTNESS, and COUNTER. To set the default language for the tester, scroll to LANGUAGE and press “ENTER”. Toggle to your preferred language and press “ENTER”. You will return to the Function Screen.

Scroll to CONFIGURATION and press “ENTER” to go to the CONFIGURATION Screen. To adjust the display brightness, scroll to BRIGHTNESS and press “ENTER”. Using the right key, adjust to your preferred level of brightness and press “ENTER”.

To learn more about the counter operation, see *Counter Function* section of this manual.

Battery Tester Operation

Battery Testing

1. Before you test a battery in a vehicle, turn off the ignition, all accessories and loads. Close all the vehicle doors and the trunk lid.
2. Make sure the battery terminals are clean. See *Preparing Battery to Be Tested*.
3. Connect tester leads to the battery, clamping the red (+, pos) clamp to the vehicle positive battery terminal first. Then, clamp the black (-, neg) clamp to the vehicle negative battery terminal second.

Note: Whenever possible, connect directly to the terminals/posts of the battery.

4. Upon completing a proper battery connection, the tester display will show the Home Screen. Select BATTERY TEST, scrolling as needed to bring the indicator in line with BATTERY TEST, and press “ENTER”.
5. Scroll to select type of battery to be tested: SLI, AGM Flat Plate, AGM/Spiral or VRLA/GEL. SLI refers to standard Starting/Lighting/Ignition flooded batteries, AGM/Flat Plate refers specifically to traditionally shaped AGM batteries, AGM/Spiral refers specifically to AGM-designated Spiral Wound batteries and VRLA/GEL specifically refers to Gel Cell batteries. Press “ENTER”.

6. Scroll to select the applicable battery rating that you plan to test against. Options include CCA, EN, DIN, IEC and JIS. Press “ENTER”.
7. Scroll to input the battery rating/capacity. Note that the right key will scroll up or down, such that you do not have to repeatedly press the key. Once the proper battery rating is shown on the display, press “ENTER” to perform the battery test (lasts 1-2 seconds).
8. *Optional sequence determined by the tester.* At this point, the tester may display a question to more accurately provide an assessment of the tested battery. If the display shows “Is battery charged?”, toggle to indicate YES or NO as applicable and press “ENTER”. If no is selected, the display will show the Open Circuit Voltage of the Battery and the instruction RECHARGE RETEST. If yes is selected, see Step 9 below.
9. When the test is complete, the display shows the determined voltage of the battery and the determined rating of the battery.

GOOD & PASS The tested battery is good and capable of holding a charge.

GOOD & RECHARGE The tested battery is good but needs to be charged.

RECHARGE & RETEST The tested battery is discharged. The battery condition cannot be determined until it is fully charged. Recharge and retest the battery.

BAD & REPLACE The tested battery cannot hold a charge. It should be replaced immediately.

BAD CELL & REPLACE The tested battery has at least one short-circuited cell. It should be replaced immediately.

LOAD ERROR The tested battery is larger than 2000 CCA or 200 AH. Or, the clamps are not connected properly. Check battery connection. If connection is incorrect, reconnect and retest. If connection is correct, charge the tested battery to full charge and retest, ensuring that a proper connection is made. If the reading is still the same, the battery should be replaced immediately.

Note: If this outcome is displayed, the operator is asked if any accessories have been left on as a possible cause. If it is found that accessories were left on, charge the tested battery and retest. If it is determined that no accessories were left on, the battery should be replaced.

10. Once you have reviewed the initial results, you can scroll through screens to display a graphical representation of the battery's state of health and state of charge (by pressing the right key in either direction).
11. Remove the test leads from the battery posts after completion of testing, always removing the negative clamp first and then the positive clamp.

System Testing: Starting and Charging System Tests

During this portion of the testing process, the tester will perform the following tests in order:

- Starting System Cranking Test
- Charging System Test without Loads
- Charging System Test under Loads – Ripple Detect
- Charging System Test under Loads

Please follow the instructions below to run through the above testing steps.

1. Make sure the battery terminals are clean. See *Preparing Battery to be Tested*.
2. Connect tester leads to the battery, clamping the red (pos) clamp to the vehicle positive battery terminal first. Then, clamp the black (neg) clamp to the vehicle negative battery terminal second.

Note: Whenever possible, connect directly to the terminals/posts of the battery.

3. Upon completing a proper battery connection, the tester display will show the Home Screen. Select SYSTEM TEST, scrolling as needed to bring the indicator in line with SYSTEM TEST. Press "ENTER".
4. The tester will prompt you to turn off all vehicle accessory loads such as lighting, air conditioning, radio, etc, and start engine.
5. Start the engine. The display will show the minimum voltage reached by the battery and provide an assessment of starting system condition. Assessment corresponds as follows:

CRANKING VOLTS NORMAL – Starting System is showing normal draw.

CRANKING VOLTS LOW – Starting System is Weak – check manufacturer specifications and troubleshoot starter as per recommended procedure as needed.

CRANKING VOLTS NOT DETECTED – Check connections, wiring, and starter immediately.

Check out the collection of automotive tools we offer.

6. After Starting System Test, press “ENTER” to go to Charging System Test, beginning with the Charging System without Loads Test. The display will remind you to ensure all loads are off – after making sure there are no loads on the system, press “ENTER”.
7. The tester will display the charging system voltage without loads and provide an assessment of that reading.

NORMAL – Charging System OK

LOW – Charging Voltage is Low – Alternator is not providing sufficient current to the battery. Check belts and connection from alternator to battery.

HIGH – Charging Voltage is High – Voltage output from alternator to battery exceeds the normal limit. Check alternator connections, including ground connection. Also, check manufacturer specifications, as output requirement may vary by vehicle type and manufacturer (confirm range is, in fact, too high for vehicle).

8. Next, the tester will perform the Charging System under Load Test, starting with a ripple detect assessment. Press “ENTER” to begin this test sequence.
9. Turn on the following accessories: blower to high (heat), high beam headlights, and rear defroster.

Note: Do not use cyclical loads such as air conditioning or windshield wipers.

10. *Optional Step determined by the Tester:* When testing older model vehicles with diesel engines, the tester may prompt the operator to run the engine at 2500 RPM for 15 seconds. Display will read: “RUN ENGINE UP TO 2500 RPM 15 SEC.”
11. Press “ENTER”. The tester will display the ripple detected from the charging system to the battery and provide an assessment of that reading.

NORMAL RIPPLE DETECT– Charging System OK

HIGH – Excess Ripple Detected – One or more of the alternator diodes are not functioning properly or there is other damage to the charging system. Check to ensure alternator mounting is sturdy and that belts are in good condition and functioning properly.

12. Press “ENTER” to proceed to the Charging System under Loads Test. One of three results will be displayed, along with the actual voltage reading.

NORMAL – Charging System OK

LOW – Charging Voltage is Low – Alternator is not providing sufficient current for the system’s electrical loads and to charge the battery. Check belts and connection from alternator to battery.

HIGH – Charging Voltage is High – Voltage output from alternator to battery exceeds the normal limit. Check alternator connections, including ground connection. Also, check manufacturer specifications, as output may vary by vehicle type and manufacturer.

13. Turn engine OFF and remove the test leads from the battery posts after completion of testing, always removing the negative clamp first and then the positive clamp.

Counter Function

The tester is equipped with a counter function that allows you to track the number of tests performed over time. The counter can be accessed through the Configuration Screen. From the Home Screen, scroll down to CONFIGURATION and press “ENTER” to go to the Configuration Screen. To access the counter, scroll to COUNTER and press “ENTER”. The tester will show the counter display, listing the number of battery tests and the number of system tests that have been performed since unit was first configured or last reset.

From the counter display, press “ENTER” to achieve the following next steps: return to the Home Screen or reset the counter. The first choice shown will be RETURN TO BATTERY TEST. Selecting this option will return you to the Home Screen. Scrolling forward once will bring you to RESET. Press “ENTER” to see your reset options, NO or YES. Scroll to your desired outcome and press “ENTER”. If you chose to reset the counter, the display will return to the counter display and show zero tests performed. If you choose NO, the display will proceed to the Home Screen.

Maintenance and Care

A basic amount of care and maintenance will allow your tester to provide years of valuable service.

- After each use, ensure that there is no corrosion on clamps. If there is corrosion on clamps, use a damp cloth to wipe corrosion off of the clamps.
- After each use, ensure that leads have not been damaged or come into contact with aggressive fluids, such as grease, engine oil, ATF or battery corrosion.
- After each use, properly store the tester to protect it when not in use.
- If tester body becomes dirty or soiled, use a damp cloth to wipe it clean.
- If tester display becomes dirty, use a screen cleaning product, such as those used to clean glasses or computer monitors, to wipe the display clean. When cleaning the display, take care not to scratch or otherwise damage it.
- Periodically replace onboard batteries to avoid a situation where the batteries run down at a critical moment.
- When storing the tester for extended periods, remove onboard batteries.

Warranty

Clore Automotive warrants this product to be free from defects in material or workmanship for a period of one year from the date of original end user purchase. This warranty extends to each person who acquires lawful ownership within one year of the original retail purchase, but is void if the product has been abused, altered, misused or improperly packaged and damaged when returned for repair.

This warranty applies to the product only and does not apply to any accessory items included with the product which are subject to wear from usage; the replacement or repair of these items shall be at the expense of the owner.

THE TERMS OF THE CLORE AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED WARRANTY CONSTITUTE THE BUYER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY. IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THIS EXPRESS WARRANTY. AFTER 1 YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE, ALL RISK OF LOSS FROM WHATEVER REASON SHALL BE PUT UPON THE PURCHASER.

CLORE AUTOMOTIVE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES: CLORE AUTOMOTIVE'S LIABILITY, IF ANY, SHALL NEVER EXCEED THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THIS MACHINE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIABILITY IS PREDICATED UPON BREACH OF WARRANTY (EXPRESS OR IMPLIED), NEGLIGENCE, STRICT TORT OR ANY OTHER THEORY.

Some states do not permit the limitation of warranties or limitation of consequential or incidental damages, so the above disclaimer and limitation may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Instructions for obtaining service under this warranty:

To obtain service under this warranty, return your **SOLAR** Battery Tester to the place of purchase, along with your dated sales receipt, for an exchange.