

Battery Status Monitor

Recently I ran out of electricity in the most embarrassing circumstances and conked out on the A9 during the Inverness rush hour. To my great and undeserved relief Callum came to my rescue, towed me away and diagnosed the fault (not for the first time...) which was a blown exciter fuse hence no charging.

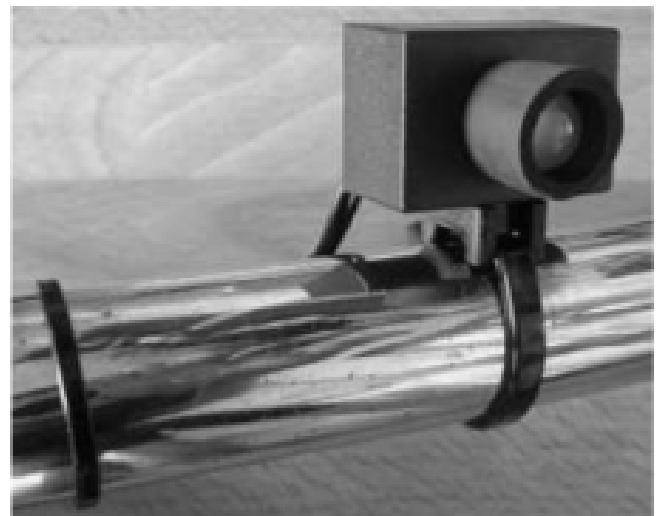
Anyway he politely pointed out my need for a voltmeter which would warn of lack of charge several hours before it became a problem. I really wanted a minimal display because I don't want to be distracted by rows of identical dials. I found the AO services Battery Status monitor, and obtained one. (3009A3 is the model number) Today was the first long run with it and I'm impressed. Basically it's a single Light Emitting Diode which requires a 14mm hole in the dashboard. It can shine red, yellow or green. If the voltage is less than 10.75 it flashes red slowly. Between 10.75 and 12V is solid red. Between 12 and 13.8V it slowly changes from orange to yellow to green; these voltages indicate a fairly healthy battery with the engine off. 13.8 to 15.25 show green, indicating charging taking place. Above 15.25 is too high and gets a quick flashing red.

The really clever bit is that it detects ambient light and becomes brighter or dimmer in response. If you cover it with your hand (simulating night time) it goes dim, and if you go into sunlight or shine a torch at it it becomes bright. So it's always visible without being dazzling. Also being intended equally for a motorcycle's handlebars it resists the wet, which should suit all you people driving cars without roofs!

The website is <http://www.aoservices.co.uk/data/bsm.htm> and the cost is £18 including postage. He does not sell over the internet so it's a cheque to:

Alan Osborn
35 Griston Road
Watton
Thetford. IP25 6DN
England
Phone or fax: +44 (0)1953 884681

(the car version does not have the box)



It's very easy to install. You need to drill a 14mm hole and connect 2 wires—an earth and a switched positive. I connected mine to the positive terminal of the nearby oil pressure warning light. I reckon it's a good £18 worth.

Top her Dawson.