

CHARGED – BUT NOT GUILTY

Most of us are guilty of allowing the battery of a vehicle which we do not use regularly to discharge partially or even fully. This means the inconvenience of charging it



up again when we get that dreaded groan from the starter, but it also means that such a discharge/recharge cycle will shorten battery life.

However, help in avoiding this situation is now at hand in the form of the CTEK Battery Conditioner. CTEK is a Swedish company founded in 2000 (ctek.com) and they make what they call, “the smartest battery chargers in the world”. In fact, I can do no better than quote from UK supplier Ultimate Finish (theultimatefinish.co.uk) as to the features and benefits of the XS3600, the model which I use:

The new generation CTEK XS3600 combines all the benefits of a battery conditioner with the power of a conventional charger, charging your battery quickly and easily without the need to disconnect it from your vehicle.

The XS3600 constantly monitors the battery after it has been initially charged and only 'trickle charges' the battery when the voltage drops due to alarms or natural drainage. This eliminates the danger of overcharging and allows the XS3600 to be safely connected for months at a time.

CTEK products are supplied as standard equipment (OE) by many prestige motor manufacturers including Porsche, Ferrari, Aston Martin and Lamborghini.

Ideal for use on cars, motorcycles, jet skis etc.





Features:

- **No need to disconnect the battery terminals**
 - Suitable for all types of 12v lead-acid batteries (inc GEL & AGM)
 - Charges batteries up to approx 75Ah & conditions larger batteries up to 120Ah
 - Fully automatic - switches to conditioning mode after initial charge
- Can be left connected for months - ideal for occasional-use vehicles
 - Simple 'plug n play' operation - no settings to make
 - Compact rugged design - water splash resistant & dust-proof
 - Dual charging options - small batteries (i.e. motorcycles) & larger batteries (cars)
 - Special cold mode - charge during cold winter days without problems
 - Supplied with insulated croc-clip connectors & additional connection lead (M6)
 - **5 year warranty**



There are a number of different models available, but all work in the same simple way and

I have to say that I have been very pleased with mine. It is well made and embodies some nice features, such as a good quality storage bag with hanging loop. It is also possible to leave a set of eyelet connectors permanently attached to the battery terminals of one vehicle as they just plug into the main lead, while using the detachable crocodile clips on other vehicles. With typical thoughtfulness, a bung is attached to stop the connection becoming contaminated when the car is being driven.

The manufacturers estimate that many Millions of Pounds-worth of batteries are replaced unnecessarily in the UK each

year, so this is your chance not to be a part of this alarming statistic.

MJB