

Conventional Charging System

With the alternator fitted and connected, turn on the ignition and check that the Battery Warning Lamp is illuminated. Start the engine and see that the Battery Warning Lamp extinguishes, also observe the voltmeter reading, it should rise to a higher voltage than previously noted. This proves that the alternator is charging. If the battery was discharged previously because the alternator had failed, then the reading could be approx. 13.5 to 13.8 volts. After a period of time the battery volts should rise to approx. 14.4 to 14.6 volts – this is for a conventional charging system. If a clamp type ammeter is available, clip this to the positive alternator charging cable and switch on the headlights or rear screen heater. A current increase with a steady battery voltage will indicate that the alternator is charging. High charging currents into a discharged battery can be monitored by a clip on ammeter, high charging currents will keep the charging volts low until the battery volts rise.