

How To Use One Charger On All Batteries

Steve Konieczki devised a way to use his DeWalt 18-volt battery charger to charge any brand of battery. In fact, he's already moved on to an improved second-generation version.

It all started when the Wasilla, Alaska, resident found a good deal on a used Milwaukee worksite radio. Unfortunately it didn't come with a battery charger.

"I didn't want to buy a \$50 Milwaukee charger, but I had a worn-out DeWalt battery cable and a multi-volt DeWalt charger," he says. He disassembled the battery and soldered three wires to the positive, negative and temperature sense terminals. He drilled a hole in the battery case for the cable to exit. The cable runs to a plug he made out of LPS steel putty, fitted with spade connectors that attach to the wires.

To charge a battery, he simply slips on the plug and places the dummy battery in the DeWalt charger.

"This could be adapted to any other brand battery and tool combination. You could even have multiple plugs coming from one dummy battery and eliminate the need for a dozen different chargers," Konieczki says.

The light on the DeWalt charger operates the same way to let you know when the battery is charged.

Konieczki made two suggestions for others interested in making adapters for their chargers.

"Don't go too long on the wire," he says, suggesting no more than a foot. Also, keep the plastic cap that comes with the battery to make a plug – instead of using putty.

He notes that his setup works for batteries from 7.2 to 18 volts. He hasn't used it for lithium batteries.

But, Konieczki says he knows if he sees good deals on battery tools at garage sales and they don't come with a charger, he can



Steve Konieczki uses his DeWalt 18-volt battery charger (in background) to charge any brand of battery.



To charge a dead battery, the "dummy battery" is wired with a plug that plugs into the battery to be charged.

make them work. No matter what brand they are.

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Sheeps Wool Lubricant Works Better Than Oil

A natural lubricant made from lanolin, the natural lubricant found in sheep's wool protects against corrosion and lubricates better than petrochemical lubricants, according to the New Zealand manufacturers of Prolan. Environmentally friendly, it's non-conductive, resistant to saltwater, acid and alkali and won't break down rubber or wiring. The heavy-grade liquid even handles extreme temperatures as low as 49 degrees below zero.

"It can be used directly on electrical connections to prevent moisture corrosion," says Hugh Carroll, North American distributor. "It creates an airtight barrier, preventing electrolysis between dissimilar metals, rusting and corrosion. You can use a cutting torch or welder on Prolan-treated surfaces without the spattering or burning you get with petroleum lubricants. It just melts away."

The lubricant qualities of lanolin are no surprise to anyone who has worked with sheep or their wool. Lanolin sheds rain and moisture, yet keeps wool from drying out in the sun and heat. Prolan puts those qualities to work in an industrial grade quality and form, says Carroll.

"Prolan converts raw wool grease into environmentally friendly products that are safe and easy to apply," he adds.

Prolan products resist being washed off after the carrier has evaporated. Treated surfaces can even be pressure washed without loss of the protective surface.

"It frees up seized parts and is a great workshop lubricant," says Carroll. "It's even



Prolan is a natural lubricant made from sheep's wool that's said to work better than petroleum-based oil.

certified for the food industry."

Prolan is available in a broad range of container sizes of light, medium and heavy-grade liquid and as an anti-seize grease. Prices range from \$18 for a 10.5-oz. aerosol pack to \$414 for a 5.3-gal. container of heavy-grade oil.

Prolan can be sprayed on, wiped on with fingers or cloth, or the item to be protected can be dipped. Even with the excess wiped off, a protective coating remains. If left overnight before the treated surface or system is used, the carrier evaporates and less dust and dirt will collect.

"New Zealand farmers use it as a rust protectant under ATV's and UTV's on dairy farms," says Carroll. "One treatment generally lasts 9 to 12 months. Spraying it on fiberglass or plastic surfaces and rubbing it into the surface rejuvenates the color."

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Stew Kunkel made this portable stand that supports his metal chop saw and long pieces of steel to be cut.

Chop Saw Mounts On Portable Stand

Stew Kunkel made a nifty portable stand for his metal chop saw. It supports long pieces of steel to be cut, lets him swivel the saw easily to cut angles, and carries the saw into storage when not in use. It even holds extra blades.

"The only thing I bought for it was aluminum C-channel for the work supports," says Kunkel. "The steel frame table was being discarded at work, and I used a slewing bearing salvaged from an old swivel recliner."

Kunkel stripped the 6-ft. long table down to its 42-in. high, 18-in. wide steel tubular frame. He reinforced it at the corners with bracing and welded steel plate at one end for a saw mount. On the opposite side of the saw mount, Kunkel welded a short length of threaded rod. He hangs extra blades for the chop saw on the rod with spacer disks cut from poly sheets.

"The blades are held out of the way, and the spacers help protect the blade tips," explains Kunkel.

He used angle iron and steel plate to make a frame for the saw to set in and attached it to the saw mount with the slewing bearing in between. When the saw is set into the frame, it can be swiveled to any desired angle for cutting. A pin lock welded to one side of the framework locks the saw into position.

Lengths of the aluminum C-channel were mounted on spacers to match the height of the chop saw cutting surface. They provide support for longer pieces of metal being cut with the saw.

When not in use, Kunkel removes the saw and tips the table on end. Round stock welded to one end of the table and to legs at that end serve as wheel mounts. They also serve as grab bars for tipping. He fabricated a second angle iron frame and mounted it to the inside of the legs as a place to store the saw.



Saw can be easily swiveled to cut at any desired angle.



When not in use, Kunkel tips the table on end to roll the saw into storage.

"I mounted fixed wheels on the ends of the legs and caster wheels to the corner of the table and the legs," says Kunkel. "If the table is down and in use, I can tip the other end up and wheelbarrow it around as needed on the fixed wheels. When it's in storage mode, the caster wheels make it easy to move the table around."

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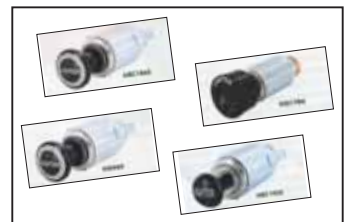
"Factory Look" Cigarette Lighters

If you own an antique tractor with a cigarette lighter, chances are it doesn't work. That's why Steiner Tractor started making replacements.

"They look just like the real factory lighters that originally came with the tractor," says Dan Steiner, Steiner Tractor, Lennon, Mich. "They're built to the original factory specs and are anodized and embossed to look authentic. It's not unusual for cigarette lighters to be missing on antique tractors. People who restore antique tractors like our cigarette lighters because the closer the tractor is to its original condition, the more valuable it becomes."

The lighters are available for a wide variety of tractor brands.

Prices range from \$24.95 to \$34.95 plus



Replacement cigarette lighters for antique tractors are built to original factory specs.

S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steiner Tractor, 1660 S. M-13, Lennon, Mich. 48449 (ph 800 234-3280; www.steinertractor.com).