

DISCHARGER DIS 10/15

Number of cells: 6 to 15 NiXX

Max.Current: 10 amps

This unit was designed to maintain the best possible condition in any NiCd battery pack. Many packs are used in such a way that are only partially discharged and then re-charged. If this process is repeated over many cycles there is the possibility of reduced capacity due to the "memory" effect.

Even when the pack is discharged before re-charging this process is often allowed to go beyond the optimum point runs the risk of some cells in the pack being reverse charged. When the discharge system is observed so that a manual cut-off can be carried out at the optimum voltage it is time consuming and still very easy to momentarily forget and miss the cut-off.

With the DIS 10/15 these features are fully automatic and there are additional features which are designed to maximise the battery performance. The unit requires a discharge load and a set of 12 volt car bulbs should be chosen and assembled to provide a discharge current of 10 amps or less with a fully charged battery pack of the chosen cell count. It is recommended that Normal Classic Incandescent Bulbs are chosen rather than halogen type and a total load of around 100 to 200 watts (depending on the cell count) would be adequate.

The Cell Count Adjustment is set to appropriate value and the load and battery connected to the charger. The red LED will light up, the bulbs will glow, and the pack starts discharging. Once the pack voltage falls below the plateau value (1,1 to 1,2 volts per cell) it will start to drop fairly rapidly, and to prevent this stage of the discharge becoming too severe the unit ramps the current down in a gradual process. As the voltage drop continues the LED begins to flash and the cells can be considered fully discharged at about 2 to 3 flashes per second (1 volt per cell). Even if the unit is not disconnected at this point the unit continues to ramp the discharge process downwards so that by the time the voltage has dropped to 0,8 to 0,85 volts the discharge current has been reduced to a mere 10 milliamps.

Although this is not a "fit and forget unit" the discharger will not harm the pack if it is left connected well beyond the optimum point. It is not recommended to leave a pack connected overnight.

The unit is fused with a 10 amp car fuse and any accidental overload will blow this fuse and protect the unit. The fuse can be replaced by any equivalent unit of the same value (10 amps).