

Using the zapper with the engine running

I am wondering if the 12V Battery Zapper unit (SILICON CHIP, July 2009) can be used with the vehicle's engine running? I don't have 240VAC available to run a charger. (S. F., via email).

- While engine control modules nor-

mally have spike voltage protection, it is probably not a good idea to run the Zapper in a car, whether the engine is running or not. In other words, the battery should be disconnected from the vehicle. We are assuming that this is a vehicle which is seldom used. If the car is used reasonably often, then you should not have a problem with sulphation.

On the other hand, if the vehicle is older, without an engine management computer, you can probably run the Battery Zapper on it with the engine running, without any risk of damage.