

Website of the Month

For this month's website, I would like to point to specific article(s) at AMA's online ezine Sport Aviator. Go the link below, scroll down a bit, and you should see a three part article titled "Those Things We Call Batteries". Here is the link:

<http://masportaviator.com/category/advanced/how-to-articles/>

The three articles are an in depth and exhaustive discussion on the batteries we use in RC airplanes/ helicopters. I found it quite informative.

Do you have a favorite website? If so, let me know and I will put it in the newsletter. Favorite online store, how to build, how to fly, etc- send me the link! My email address:

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Vanessa CG Machine Follow Up

Last month's article described the Vanessa CG Machine. Bill Denner has donated a Vanessa CG machine to the club. It can be found in the overhead of the shelter. On a calm day, it should work well hanging from the shelter overhead beams. Please feel free to try it out. Thanks Bill!

More on Batteries

For this month's article, I would like to share my experiences with my field box battery. I use my field box battery not only for my starter, but I also use it to charge my LiPo batteries for my electric plane. I rigged a terminal to the side of the box that works nicely for charging the field box battery and for charging my LiPo batteries. See picture below:



The standoffs allow me to wrap the wire shown in the picture for storage. I took care to mark the terminals black and red in order to keep the polarities straight. I clip the alligator clips from the chargers to the knurled knobs.

I had an issue in regards to charging the field box lead acid battery. I have been using the Hobbico wall charger, but you never know when the field box battery is completely charged. Because of this, there were several times that I had to suspend charging my LiPo batteries because the field box battery became too weak. Further, even though the Hobbico charger is a “trickle” charger, I expect that prolonged use could still over charge the field box battery and shorten its life. Well, this past week I found a solution to my problem, and it was in my garage the whole time. It is called “Battery Tender”.

www.batterytender.com



I have been using the Battery Tender for years on my second car to keep the battery from going dead. From the Battery Tender website:

“The Battery Tender Plus is a 1.25 amp battery charger designed to fully charge a battery and maintain it at proper storage voltage without the damaging effects caused by trickle chargers. Included is a quick connect harness for hard to reach areas.”

It comes with a second harness with alligator clips, so I had everything that I needed. More importantly, it has a GREEN light that tells me when the battery is completely charged! I hooked it up to my field box and in less than an hour I had a green light. For the first time I know my field box battery is completely charged. It comes in 6 and 12 volt versions; if you decide to pick up one, make sure you get the right voltage (for RC use, I assume the 12 volt version is the one everyone needs). There are several models available for the battery tender and the major auto parts stores should carry it, although you may be able to find it cheaper online (\$23 to \$50, depending on the model).

See you at the field.

Alan Fry

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