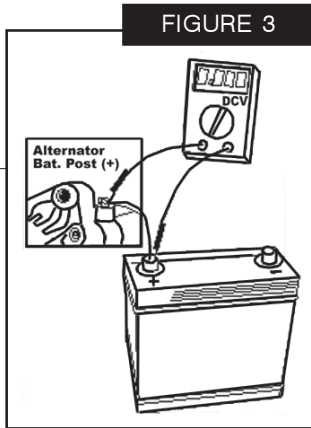
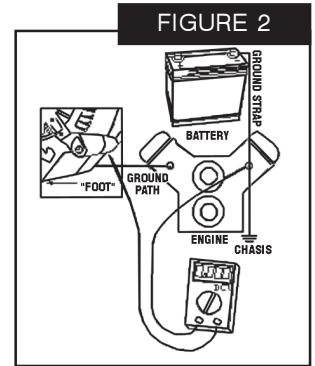


SYSTEM CHECK

- ◆ Apply a moderate load to the charging system (i.e., high beam headlights and A/C for example) and bring the engine to 1,500rpm. Using a digital voltmeter measure the DC voltage from the a bare metal point on the case of the alternator to the negative battery terminal. Readings higher than 0.10VDC indicate a poor ground connection. Check the ground path including any paint or anodizing on the brackets, the engine ground strap, and the ground cable from the frame to the battery. (See figure 2).
- ◆ With battery fully charged and engine running at 1,500rpm, measure the voltage at battery positive post (+) and the ground post (-). Voltage should be 13.8~14.5VDC. Readings above 15.5VDC indicate a defective alternator and readings below 12.7VDC indicate that the alternator is not functioning or cannot supply the current amperage needs of the vehicle at this engine speed.



- ◆ Using the voltmeter, measure the voltage drop between the battery positive post (+) and the alternator output post (See figure 3). Voltage should be less than 0.40VDC. If voltage is higher than 0.40VDC, check for poor connections between the alternator and the battery. Possible causes are undersized battery cables, loose or improperly crimped terminals, and corroded connections.

Battery charge wires- Powermaster recommends that a 10 AWG or larger battery charge wire be used with all 75 amp alternators. If the battery has been relocated to the trunk, a 6 AWG or larger charge wire is required to compensate for the longer distance.

Square & round back type alternators- Early Mopar round back alternators can be upgraded to the later square back style unit. Both types have the same mounting and basic wiring configuration. High amperage and chrome are available only in the square back design.

Aftermarket pulleys- The Mopar alternator design uses a **pressed on** pulley. Special tools are required to prevent alternator damage when removing and reinstalling the pulley. The unit should also be disassembled when the pulley is being installed to prevent damage to the bearings and brush holders. For these reasons, it is recommended that a professional alternator shop install aftermarket pulleys.

External regulators- The alternator's voltage output is controlled by the external regulator. It is recommended when replacing an alternator that the external regulator also be replaced.

Why is my voltage low when I'm cruising around at a show or sitting at a traffic light?

All alternators have an output curve that increases with RPM. In other words, your alternator cannot provide as many amps at idle as it can at higher speeds. If your car demands more amperage than the alternator can supply at idle, the remaining amps must come from the battery thus a decrease in voltage results. Any after market pulleys that slow the alternator relative to the engine [i.e. power pulleys] can greatly magnify this problem.

Why does my voltage test good at the alternator but low at the battery and fuse box?

Any resistance in the electrical path will decrease voltage. This includes all positive *and* negative conductors and connections between the alternator and the second test point. All connections must be secure and free of corrosion. All ground points must be free of paint and rust. Charging wires must be of adequate size for the amperage capabilities of your alternator. Improving any weak points in the electrical paths should bring voltage readings to within 0.5 volts of each other.