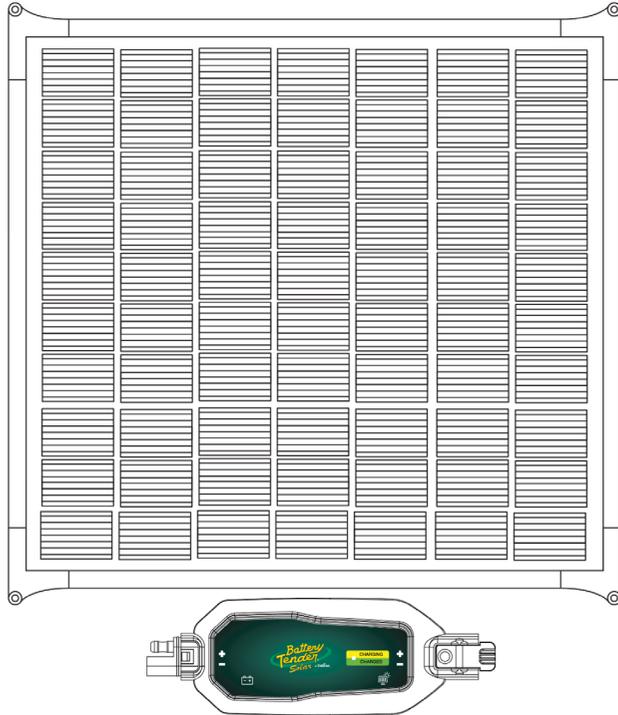




# 17Watt SOLAR PANEL AND SOLAR CONTROLLER INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Part Number: 021-1173



**Read this material before using this product.  
Failure to do so can result in serious injury.  
Save this manual.**

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## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS & WARNINGS

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS:** This manual contains important safety and operating instructions for the Battery Tender® Solar Panel battery charger.

**CAREFULLY READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE BATTERY CHARGER.**

**WARNING AND CAUTION LABEL DEFINITIONS:**

### WARNING

**WARNING** indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, could result in serious injury or death.

### CAUTION

**CAUTION** indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury.

### CAUTION

**CAUTION** used without the safety alert symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation that if not avoided, may result in property damage.

**GENERAL PRECAUTIONS**

### WARNING

Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead components, and other chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Always wash your hands after handling these devices.

### WARNING

Do not operate the battery charger with damaged DC output cords or accessories - Replace Cords or accessories immediately if damaged.

### CAUTION

**WORKING WITH LEAD ACID BATTERIES AND BATTERY CHARGERS:** All lead acid batteries have the potential to emit gasses that may combine into a combustible or explosive mixture. In many cases, it is possible that lead acid batteries will emit these gasses during normal discharge and charging operations. Because of this potential danger, it is important that you follow the precautions recommended by both the battery and battery charger manufacturers before using either one. For example, do not exceed the recommended maximum recharge rate (charger output current limit), or remove cell caps while charging flooded batteries.

### CAUTION

**CHARGER VOLTAGE COMPATIBILITY:** NEVER use a battery charger unless the battery voltage matches the output voltage rating of the charger. For example, do not use a 12-volt charger with a 6-volt battery and vice-versa.

**CHARGER LOCATION:** LOCATE the charger as far away from the battery as is allowed by the length of the output cable harness.

**EXCESSIVE MOISTURE:** Do not submerge the Solar Panel in any liquid.

**CHARGER ATTACHMENTS:** Do not use attachments that are not recommended or sold by the charger manufacturer. To do otherwise may result in the risk of electric shock, fire, or possibly some other unforeseen potential personal injury situations.

**MONITORING SEALED & NON-SEALED BATTERIES:** When leaving a battery charger connected to either a sealed (AGM or GEL) or non-sealed (flooded battery) for extended periods of time (weeks, months, etc.), periodically check the battery to see if it is unusually warm. This is an indication that the battery may have a weak cell and that it could go into a thermal runaway condition. If the battery releases an excessive amount of gas or if the battery gets hotter than 130°F (55°C) during charging, disconnect the charger and allow the battery to cool. Overheating may result in plate distortion, internal shorting, drying out or other damage. For flooded batteries, also check individual cell fluid levels against manufacturer's recommendations for safe operation.

**WARNING**

**ELECTRIC SPARK & OPEN FLAME: NEVER** smoke or allow a source of electric spark or open flame in the vicinity of the battery or engine. (For example: Don't charge the battery next to a gas water heater.)

**VENTILATION:** Do not operate the charger where ventilation is restricted. The intent here is to allow sufficient airflow to minimize and dissipate the heat generated by the charger and to diffuse the gasses that may be emitted by the battery.

**CHARGER MAINTENANCE: NEVER DISASSEMBLE OR ATTEMPT TO DO INTERNAL REPAIRS. THIS VOIDS THE WARRANTY.** Assembling the charger incorrectly may result in the risk of electric shock or create a fire hazard.

**PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS****WARNING****WHEN YOU WORK NEAR LEAD-ACID BATTERIES:**

1. Someone should be within range of your voice or close enough to come to your aid if you have an accident;
2. Have plenty of fresh water and soap nearby in case battery acid contacts skin, clothing, or eyes;
3. Wear complete eye protection and protective clothing. Avoid touching your eyes while working near a battery. If battery acid contacts your skin or clothing, wash immediately with soap and water. If acid enters an eye, immediately flood the eye with running cold water for at least 10 minutes and get medical attention as soon as possible.
4. Be extra cautious when handling metal tools around a battery. If you drop a metal tool near a battery it might spark or create a short circuit between the battery terminals and some other metal part. Either event may cause a dangerous electrical shock hazard, a fire, or even an explosion;
5. Remove all personal metal items such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, and watches when working with a lead-acid battery. A lead-acid battery can produce a short-circuited current high enough to weld a metal ring or other piece of jewelry, causing a severe burn;

6. **Use Battery Tender® Solar Chargers for charging 12V lead-acid or 12V Lithium Ion batteries only.** They are not intended to supply power to an extra low-voltage electrical system or to charge dry-cell batteries. Charging dry-cell batteries may cause them to burst and cause injury to persons and damage to property;

**INFORMATION NOTE ABOUT DRY-CELL BATTERIES:**

There are some wet, non spillable, lead acid batteries on the market whose manufacturers' make the claim that they are dry-cell batteries. These batteries are sealed, gas-recombinant, starved electrolyte, possibly with AGM (Absorbed Glass Mat) type construction. It is perfectly safe to use the Battery Tender® Solar Charger to charge these types of batteries. The dry-cell battery warning is intended for rechargeable or non-rechargeable alkaline and other similar types of batteries. If you have any doubt about the type of battery that you have, please contact the battery manufacturer before attempting to charge the battery.

7. **NEVER** charge a visibly damaged or frozen battery.

**WARNING****IF THE BATTERY MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE VEHICLE:**

1. To avoid an electric arc (or spark), turn off or disconnect all of the accessories in the vehicle. Then always remove the cable that is connected to grounded terminal from battery first;
2. If necessary, clean the battery terminals. Be careful to keep the corrosion and other debris from coming in contact with your eyes;
3. If the battery is not a sealed battery, then if necessary, add distilled water to each cell until the battery acid solution reaches the level specified by battery manufacturer. Do not overfill;
4. Before connecting the charger to the solar panel, check the polarity of the battery posts, and attach at least a 24 inch long 6 (AWG) insulated, battery extension cable to the negative battery post. Then connect the appropriate charger DC output connectors to the battery and the extension cable, positive to positive and negative to negative. Never allow the alligator clips or terminal rings to touch each other after they are connected to the battery charger.

**WARNING****IF THE BATTERY REMAINS INSTALLED IN THE VEHICLE:**

1. DO NOT CONNECT THE CHARGER'S OUTPUT LEADS TO THE SOLAR PANEL UNTIL ALL OTHER CONNECTIONS ARE MADE!
2. Place and OUTPUT DC power cords in the best position to avoid accidental damage by movable vehicle parts, i.e. hoods, doors, or moving engine parts (fan blades, belts, or pulleys).
3. Check the polarity of the battery posts. If the positive (pos, p, +) post is connected to the vehicle chassis, then the vehicle has a positive ground system. If the negative (neg, n, -) post is connected to the vehicle chassis, then the vehicle has a negative ground system. Negative ground systems are the most common.
4. For negative ground systems, connect the positive (red) alligator clip, or ring terminal to the positive battery post. Then connect the negative (black) alligator clip, or ring terminal to the vehicle chassis. Do not make the negative charger clip or ring connection to the carburetor, fuel lines, or thin, sheet metal parts. Make that connection to the engine block or a heavy gauge metal part of the frame.
5. For positive ground systems, connect the negative (black) alligator clip, or ring terminal to the negative battery post. Then connect the positive (red) alligator clip, or ring terminal to the vehicle chassis. Do not make the positive charger clip or ring connection to the carburetor, fuel lines, or thin, sheet metal parts. Make that connection to the engine block or a heavy gauge metal part of the frame.

**PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

<b>BATTERY TENDER® SOLAR CONTROLLER CHARGER</b>	
Input	16 Volt DC, 45Watt MAX
Output	15 Volt DC, 3A MAX
Controller Part Number	400-0365-BT
Working Temperature	-49-185°F (- 45 - 85°C)
Warranty	5 years
Certification	FCC, ICES-001

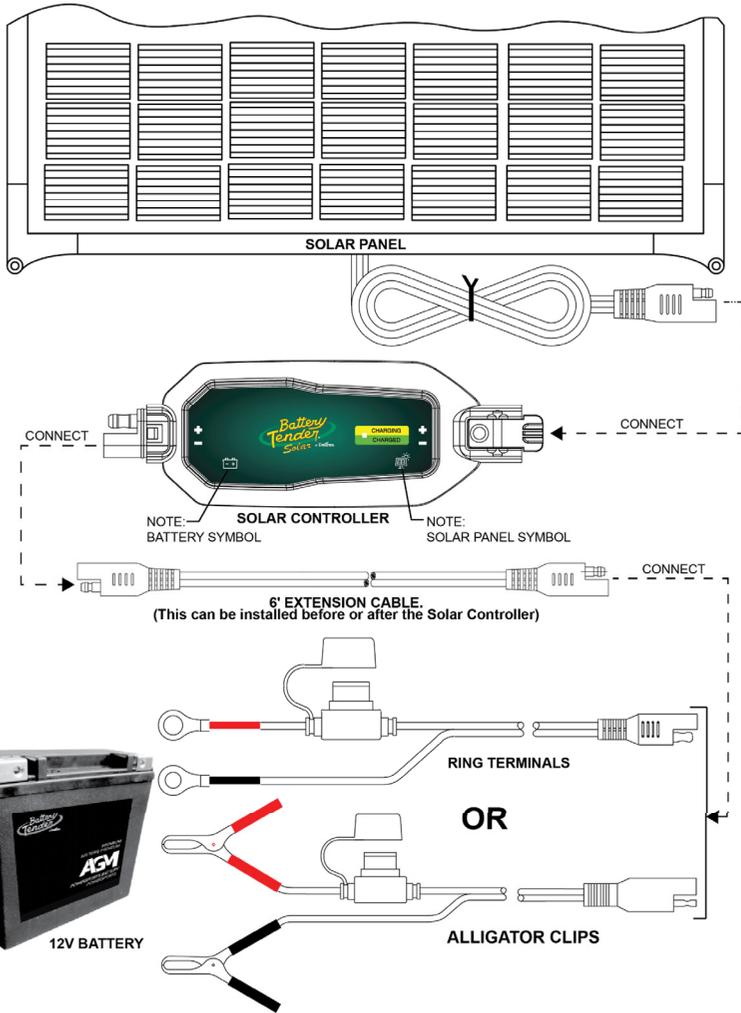
<b>BATTERY TENDER® 17W SOLAR PANEL</b>	
Maximum Power	17 Watts
Maximum Power Voltage	15.56 Volts
Maximum Power Current	1.13 Amps
Panel Part Number	021-1173
Warranty	5 years
Certification	IP65

**PRODUCT OVERVIEW**

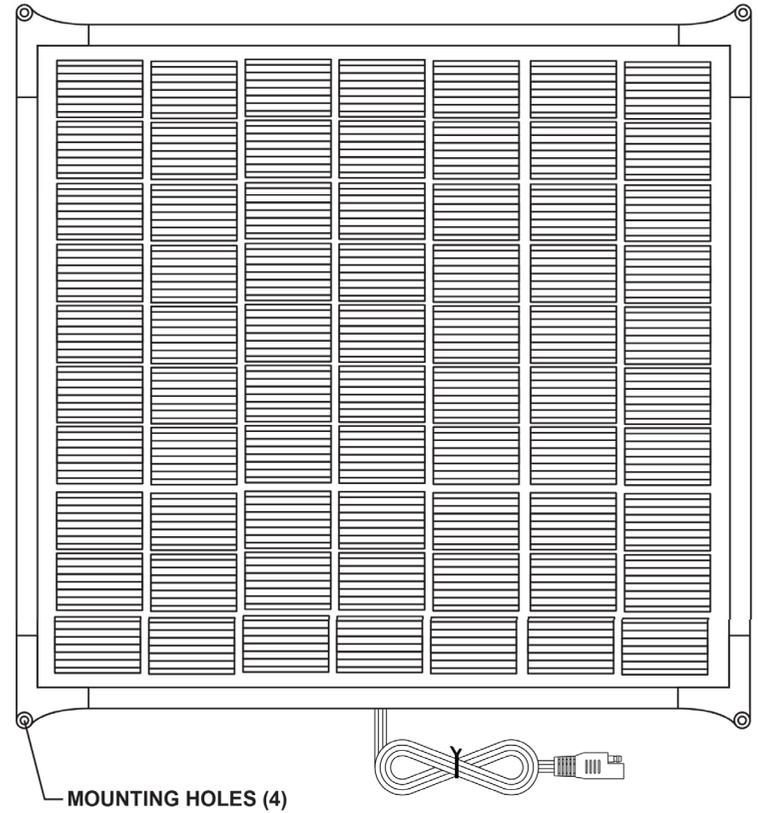
Below is a list of items that should be included in your retail box:

- 1) 1 - Solar Panel
- 2) 1 - Solar Controller
- 3) 1 - Ring Terminal Harness
- 4) 1 - Alligator Clip Harness
- 5) 1 - 6 ft Extension Cable
- 6) 1 - Instruction Manual

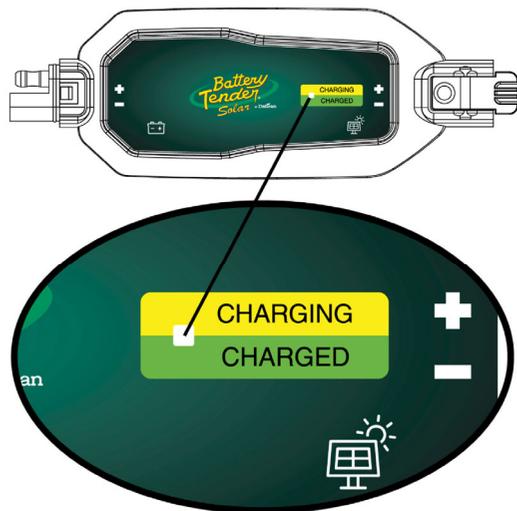
# SOLAR PANEL CONNECTIONS/OPERATION AND MOUNTING



# SOLAR PANEL MOUNTING



## SOLAR CONTROLLER LED INDICATIONS/STATUS



The following describes the indicator LED light operation.

LED State	Solar Controller Status
Off	Insufficient power from solar panel (No sunlight)
LED Flashing Green/Amber	<u>RPP Mode:</u> Polarity on battery connection reversed
LED Flashing Amber	<u>Standby Mode:</u> Solar controller is ready to charge a battery and no battery is detected.
LED Steady Amber	<u>Charging Mode:</u> Battery is charging
LED Steady Green	<u>Charged Mode:</u> Battery is charged

## ADDITIONAL CHARGER INFORMATION

The Battery Tender® Solar Charger is completely automatic and may be left connected to both solar panel and to the battery that it is charging for long periods of time. However, it is prudent to periodically check both the battery and the charger for normal operation during these extended charging periods.

The charger output power, voltage, and current all depend on the condition of the battery that is being charged and the available input power from the solar panel. Battery Tender® Solar Chargers have a status light that indicate the operating mode of the charger, and the condition of the battery that is connected to the charger.

The charger operates in two charge modes: maximum voltage and current limited by what the solar panel can produce and then maintenance charge mode. If there is insufficient sun light on the solar panel, the charger will not attempt to charge or maintain the battery. Once the battery is fully charged, the green status indicator light will turn on-solid and the charger will switch to a storage/maintenance charge mode. Battery Tender® Solar Chargers will automatically monitor and maintain the battery at full charge.

The Battery Tender® Solar Charger charges up to the maximum rate allowed by the included 17 Watt panel. Under ideal conditions a fully discharged 5 Amp-Hour battery will take approximately 4.5 hours, to recharge to 80% capacity with a Battery Tender® Solar charger connected to the included 17 Watt panel. Some large automotive or marine, deep cycle type batteries may take several days to fully recharge. Please note this condition assumes full sunlight and optimal tilt angle.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** The **Battery Tender®** Solar Controller has the following special features:

**BATTERY BACK FEED PROTECTION:** The Solar Controller has a special circuit that prevents your battery from back charging into the Solar panel and draining your battery.

## **WORKING WITH A DEAD BATTERY OR A BATTERY WITH A VERY LOW**

**VOLTAGE:** If a 12 Volt, Lead-Acid battery has an output voltage of less than 9 volts when it is at rest, when it is neither being charged nor supplying electrical current to an external load, there is a good chance that the battery is defective. As a frame of reference, a fully charged 12-Volt, Lead-Acid battery will have a rest-state, no-load voltage of approximately 12.9 volts. A fully discharged 12-Volt, Lead-Acid battery will have a rest-state, no-load voltage of approximately 11.4 volts. That means that a voltage change of only 1.5 volts represents the full range of charge 0% to 100% on a 12-Volt, Lead-Acid battery. Depending on the manufacturer, and the age of the battery, the specific voltages will vary by a few tenths of a volt, but the 1.5-volt range will still be a good indicator of the battery charge %.

## **TROUBLE SHOOTING**

- 1. THE CHARGER LED LIGHT REMAINS OFF AFTER THE CHARGER IS CONNECTED TO THE SOLAR PANEL:** Check the charger DC input power connection at solar panel and the charger. Verify that the solar panel has at least 15 volts output with a voltmeter.
- 2. THE CHARGERS GREEN LED ILLUMINATED IMMEDIATELY WHEN DC POWER IS APPLIED TO THE CHARGER:** The DC ring terminals or gator clips connection at the battery may be intermittent, the battery may be defective, or the battery might already be fully charged.
- 3. CHARGER IS CHARGING BUT THE GREEN LED DOES NOT ILLUMINATE IN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME:** The battery may be too large and requires more time to fully charge than originally expected, there may be another appliance drawing electric power from the battery while it is charging, or the battery may be defective. A newly purchased battery may not be fully charged and may take longer to charge initially. Also, there may be insufficient sun light on the solar panel.
- 4. THE LED REVERTS TO ILLUMINATING AMBER AFTER TURNING GREEN.** There may be another appliance drawing electric power from the battery causing its voltage to drop below the reset level. The battery charger then goes back into full charge mode. The charger connections at the battery may be intermittent or the battery may be defective. Also, there may be insufficient sun light on the solar panel.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

For customer support please visit [batterytender.com](http://batterytender.com). You can also call our customer service hotline 877-456-7901. You may also email us [Service@batterytender.com](mailto:Service@batterytender.com) or use Chat from our website.

## **WARRANTY**

The Battery Tender® Solar Panel comes with a five (5) limited warranty against defects or failure (within five (5) years of purchase).

THIS LIMITED WARRANTY IS VOID under the following conditions:

- 1) The product is misused, subjected to careless handling, or operated under conditions of extreme temperature, shock, or vibration beyond our recommendations for safe and effective use.
- 2) The product is misused, subjected to careless handling, or operated under conditions of extreme temperature, shock, or vibration beyond our recommendations for safe and effective use.
- 3) The product is disassembled or repaired by anyone who is not an authorized service representative.
- 4) The product was purchased from an unauthorized source. Warranty is not transferable from the original purchaser.
- 5) Any physical damage to any of components or any accessory after purchase.
- 6) Any modifications to any of the components.