

Activator 282 Aircraft Battery Maintenance Charger

Operator Manual

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This Operator Manual applies to the Activator 282 with a Liquid Crystal Display starting with Serial Number Q24632.

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Lamar Technologies LLC
14900 40th Ave. NE
Marysville, WA 98271
360-651-8869 office
360-651-6677 fax
www.lamartech.com/powerproducts/
info@lamartech.com

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Warnings

List of Warnings

DANGER

The Activator 282 enclosure does not have electrical interlocks. Contact with the primary power input lines can be lethal. Only qualified electronics technicians should open the enclosure. There are no user-serviceable parts inside.

Activator 282 Aircraft Battery Maintenance Charger

1. Introduction

The Activator 282 is a compact aircraft battery maintenance charger, intended to be connected to an aircraft battery and left unattended for an extended time. It is lightweight and compact, and connects directly to the aircraft battery terminals. It uses an IEC60320 power inlet and can operate from any global line/mains AC power source. No other tools or equipment are required to use the Activator 282.

The unit will charge a 24 Volt lead-acid or nickel-cadmium aircraft battery using the standard MS3509-compatible connector. DO NOT use it on any other battery chemistry, such as lithium ion. The Activator 282 displays the battery voltage on its Liquid Crystal Display, and shows its status with three lights on the front panel. The unit charges at about two-three Amperes maximum current, and regulates the battery voltage to prevent overcharge. After the battery is fully charged, a short “topping” charge is applied to reduce sulfation in lead-acid batteries and to equalize cells in nickel-cadmium batteries. Then the unit shuts off all charging and monitors the battery open-circuit voltage. As the battery self-discharges to a low charge level, the Activator 282 starts another charge cycle. All operation is completely automatic and requires no user interaction.

The Activator 282 is intended for sheltered use (no water into the enclosure) at temperatures from -20°C to +50°C.

Items furnished	Note
Activator 282	
Line cord for North America	Line cords available for other countries – contact distributor or factory.
Storage case	
Operator Manual	

The Activator 282 is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for one (1) year after purchase.

Preparation for Use

2. Preparation for use

Inspect the shipping carton for obvious signs of damage or dampness.

Open the shipping carton and remove the contents. Check the contents against the shipping list and be sure all items are included.

When not in use, store the Activator 282 safe from shock, vibration, moisture, and excessive heat.

Principles of Operation

3. Principles of operation

The Activator 282 plugs into any global power outlet of 100 ~ 240 VAC, 50 ~ 60 Hz. It uses a switching power supply to efficiently convert the line/mains voltage to 24 ~ 32 Volts DC, regulated by its microcontroller.

Voltage limits stated in this section are for a Lead Acid battery. See the table in the section “Activator 282 Charging Cycles” for Nickel Cadmium voltage levels.

When AC line power is applied, the display will light up with a white backlight and all three indicator lights will illuminate for several seconds. The Activator 282 will display the battery voltage for approximately five seconds if one is present, otherwise it will show a low voltage coming from its own power supply. If a battery is connected, the unit will begin charging the battery. If no battery is connected, the unit will display “Er1” and a red FAULT light. The power must be turned off to clear the error message “Er1”.

During charging, a yellow “CHARGING” light is on.

When the battery reaches its nominal charge voltage of 28.2 Volts the Activator 282 continues with a “topping” charge for a short time. Voltage is regulated by the microcontroller to prevent over-charging. Counting from when AC power is first turned on, the first topping charge is about one hour.

After the topping charge is complete or when the battery reaches 28.6 Volts, the Activator 282 turns off the charge current and just monitors the open-circuit battery voltage. The green “READY” light is on. The Activator 282 draws its operating power from the AC, and draws only 125 micro-amps (0.000125 Amps) from the battery while monitoring the self-discharge of the battery. As the battery self-discharges below 25.30 Volts the Activator 282 will automatically begin another charge cycle, lighting the yellow “CHARGING” light. At the end of this second charge cycle, the topping charge time is approximately 30 minutes. The battery is allowed to self-discharge again, and a third charge cycle will occur. The topping charge for third and subsequent charge cycles is only two minutes.

In the event the battery is sulfated or has some other problem, it may heat up even at the modest two- to three-ampere charging rate. A thermostat mounted in the battery connector will close at about 50°C (122°F). The Activator 282 will show a red “OVERTEMP/FAULT” light flashing about once per second, display the voltage detected and the message “Er3” on the LCD, and will suspend charging. When the battery terminals have cooled by about 5°C (9°F) the thermostat will open. However, the Activator 282 will not resume charging after a temperature fault until the AC power is cycled “OFF”, then back “ON”.

This heating is very unusual with a good battery unless the environment is close to 50°C (122°F). If the flashing red light and error code “Er3” are observed in a cool environment, it is suggested the battery condition be independently tested.

The Activator 282 has an internal timer set for 26 hours. If a battery fails to reach a full charge within 26 hours, the Activator 282 will show a flashing red “FAULT” light and the error message “Er2”. Charging will be suspended. Cycling AC power on the Activator 282 will reset the timer and restart the charge cycle.

Operating Instructions

4. Operating instructions



Refer to the figure above.

Callout	Description
A	Voltmeter. Displays battery voltage when connected to a battery, or shows “Er1” when powered on but not connected. Shows “Er2” if battery has not completed a charge in 26 hours. Shows “Er3” if the battery terminals reach 50°C (122°F).
B	Power switch. Turns the AC power on or off.
C	NiCad-Lead Acid switch. Set this recessed switch for the type of 24 Volt aircraft battery to be charged. This switch affects the maximum battery charging voltage.
D	Charging light. Shows yellow when charging is taking place.
E	Ready light. Shows green when the Activator has turned off all charging current and is monitoring the battery open-circuit voltage.
F	Over-temperature / Fault light. Flashes red about once per second if the battery has not completed a charge in 26 hours time since power was applied. Flashes red about once per second when the battery terminals are overheated. Cycle power to clear.
G	Connector knob. Insert into the battery connector and turn the knob clockwise to secure the Activator 282 to the battery. Turn counter-clockwise to remove the Activator 282 from the battery.

4.1 Charging a Battery

CAUTION

Connect the Activator 282 to the battery before applying AC power, to prevent a spark when connecting to the battery.

Disconnect any battery connections. Connect the Activator 282 directly to the aircraft battery terminals with its integral connector, twisting the connecting knob clockwise to secure the Activator 282 to the battery.

Connect a power cord to the Activator 282 and to a suitable power outlet.

A suitable power outlet will stay continuously powered for the time that the Activator 282 is in use. It will not be turned off periodically, such as a lighting circuit or a circuit that is shut down every weekend.

Operating Instructions

Observe that the voltmeter backlight comes on with all the lights ON and the battery voltage is displayed on the screen, then the yellow “CHARGING” light comes on. The display shows only battery voltage.

A full charge of a healthy but fully discharged battery may take up to 24 hours. Of course, partially charged batteries will finish charging more quickly. When the battery has reached full charge, the Activator 282 will provide a topping charge for a few more minutes, then automatically stop charging and just monitor battery voltage. At this time the green “READY” light will come on and the yellow “CHARGING” light will go off.

4.2 Activator 282 Charging Cycles

The Activator 282 charges a battery to full charge, then disconnects completely to let the battery alone until the battery self-discharges to below 25.3 Volts open circuit. The Activator 282 then wakes up and recharges the battery. The cycles and voltage setpoints are shown in the following table.

Note that this sequence restarts every time power is applied or re-applied to the Activator 282. For example, if the Activator 282 is plugged in to a circuit that gets turned off every night (or every weekend), then when power is re-applied the Activator 282 will start over with a full charge of the battery. This is not the desired protocol, it is better to avoid regularly recharging the battery until it has self-discharged to below 25.3 Volts.

	Indication	Lead Acid	Nickel Cadmium
First time charging	Yellow "CHARGING"	Charge to 28.20 Volts, then charge for another 60 minutes OR until battery reaches 28.60 Volts. Then shut down.	Charge to 28.50 Volts, then charge for another 60 minutes OR until battery reaches 30.00 Volts. Then shut down.
First Idle Period	Green "READY"	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.
Second time charging	Yellow "CHARGING"	Charge to 28.20 Volts, then charge for another 30 minutes OR until battery reaches 28.60 Volts. Then shut down.	Charge to 28.50 Volts, then charge for another 30 minutes OR until battery reaches 30.00 Volts. Then shut down.
Second Idle Period	Green "READY"	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.
Third and more times charging	Yellow "CHARGING"	Charge to 28.20 Volts, then charge for another 2 minutes OR until battery reaches 28.60 Volts. Then shut down.	Charge to 28.50 Volts, then charge for another 2 minutes OR until battery reaches 30.00 Volts. Then shut down.
Third and more times Idle	Green "READY"	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.	Watch battery self-discharge until it drops below 25.30 Volts.

4.3 Unexpected Loss of Power

If the AC power is removed unexpectedly, the Activator 282 draws no current from the battery.

When AC power is re-applied, the Activator 282 will automatically resume the charge cycle, and will reset its internal 26 hour maximum charge timer.

4.4 Disconnecting from a Battery

Turn off the Activator 282. Remove the power cord from the power outlet.

Operating Instructions

Remove the Activator 282 from the battery by twisting its knob counter-clockwise.

4.5 Emergency Shutdown

Remove AC power either from the power outlet or from the Activator 282.

Maintenance and Servicing

5. Maintenance and servicing (preventive and corrective)

5.1 Verifying Charge Voltage

Equipment	Example
Calibrated high-impedance digital voltmeter for 30 Volts DC.	Fluke 179, many other meters with 4-1/2 digits or more resolution.

This test is to be done with a battery and with AC power connected. This verification procedure is recommended once per year.

Set the meter to read a DC voltage near 30 Volts. Connect the meter leads to the red (positive) and black (negative) test points on the Activator 282.

Apply power to the Activator 282.

Note the voltmeter reading and note the display reading. The display may bounce up and down by a few digits, but the average reading must agree with the voltmeter reading within ± 0.20 Volts.

The voltage reading that the Activator 282 uses to regulate the battery charge is the same as the displayed voltage. If the voltmeter reading is more than ± 0.20 Volts different from the display, it may be necessary to calibrate or repair the Activator 282. This is best done by the distributor or factory.

5.2 Verifying Fan Operation

It is recommended this be performed twice per year.

It does not matter if the Activator 282 is connected to a battery. Connect AC power and check for air movement through the top fan vent holes. Use a flashlight or strong room light to verify that the fan is rotating. Listen for any ticking or grinding sounds that indicate a bad fan bearing.

The fan is very small, and the airflow is not strong. That is normal.

A bad fan can be replaced by the distributor or by the factory.

Preparation for Shipment, Storage, Parts List

6. Preparation for shipment

Place the Activator 282 and power cord into the supplied case, if available.

Place into a plastic bag and seal it to prevent moisture from getting into the Activator 282.

Place the bagged Activator 282 into a cardboard carton with at least 1" of resilient padding on all sides.

7. Storage

Store the Activator 282 sheltered from moisture and from severe shock and vibration, at a temperature of -28°C (-18°F) to +70°C (+158°F). The Activator 282 must be cooled below 45°C (113°F) before use.

8. Parts List

8.1 Power Cord

The only user-replaceable part is the power cord. This is a standard cord with IEC60320 type C13 connector on one end and the appropriate country power plug on the other end. The smallest gauge power wire available is adequate, as the Activator 282 draws less than 1 Ampere under all conditions and all AC voltages.

8.2 Fan

The internal fan may be replaced by the distributor or the factory. It is an Orion OD4010-24HB (Mouser 670-OD401024HB) with a TE Connectivity 1375820-2 connector and 1375819-2 contacts. The red fan wire (positive) goes to pin 1 of the connector.

The connector from the fan being replaced may be cut off and re-used, with the new fan wires spliced onto the old wires, soldered, and insulated. Match colors to keep the fan polarity correct.

Test the fan for proper rotation after replacing. The fan will not operate on reversed polarity power, but it will not be damaged.

Troubleshooting

9. Troubleshooting

Symptom	Possible Cause	Action
No backlight or front panel lights when plugged in.	Power cord not fully plugged in.	Check both ends of the power cord to be sure they are securely plugged in .
	Power outlet not energized.	Test outlet with another device.
	Internal power supply fuse blown.	This is not a replaceable fuse. Its failure indicates a serious internal power failure. Contact distributor or factory for repair.
Displayed voltage is different from an external voltmeter reading.	Tolerance.	Allow a difference of ± 0.2 Volts in voltage comparisons before taking corrective action.
	External voltmeter accuracy	Be sure the voltmeter is calibrated.
	Out of calibration	This should not happen. Return unit to distributor or factory for checking and re-calibration.
Red "Overtemp/Fault" light flashes about once per second and message "Er2" is displayed.	Charging time exceeded 26 Hours (first time)	Battery capacity is larger than 42 Ampere-Hours. Cycle power on the Activator 282 and continue charging.
	Charging time exceeded 26 Hours (second time)	Battery may be defective. Test battery.
Red "Overtemp/Fault" light flashes about once per second and message "Er3" is displayed.	Battery terminals have exceeded 50°C/122°F.	Allow battery to cool. Remove and re-apply power to the Activator 282. This may be a sign of a sulfated or defective battery. If the problem persists, test the battery.

Specifications

10. Specifications

Input voltage:	100 ~ 240 VAC, $\pm 10\%$, 50 ~ 60 Hz, 1 Ampere maximum.
Input connector:	IEC60320-C13
Input power:	90 Watts maximum
Battery charge voltage:	28.6 Volts maximum (Lead-Acid) 32.0 Volts maximum (Nickel-Cadmium)
Operating temperature:	-20°C to +50°C (-4°F to +122°F)
Storage range:	-28°C to +70°C (-18°F to +158°F)
Timing accuracy:	$\pm 5\%$ of nominal time
Display accuracy:	$\pm 0.2V$
Weight:	Activator 282 and power cord, 2.2 pounds/1.0 kilograms
Size:	Approx. 110mm x 150mm x 95mm (4.33" x 5.9" x 3.8")
Battery Connector:	Mates with MS-3509 standard aircraft battery connector

11. Certificate of Calibration

Lamar Technologies LLC
14900 40th Ave.NE
Marysville, WA 98271
360-651-8869

CERTIFICATION OF FACTORY CALIBRATION

BATTERY CHARGER – DIRECT CONNECT
MODEL ACTIVATOR 282 • P/N: 282-300

APPLICATION: Automatic charging of 24 volt aircraft batteries – vented Lead Acid, sealed Lead Acid or Nickel Cadmium.

SPECIFICATIONS: •AC input Nominal 115 or 230VAC 50/60/400Hz – auto ranging
•On/Off Toggle Switch
•Lead Acid / NiCad Slide Switch

NOTES:
A. Unit manufactured and calibrated under MIL-I-45208
B. Calibrating instruments used:
•Meter: FLUKE Model 8010A & 73 DC Volts / DC MV (Amperes)
•Shunt: EMPRO Standard 0.25% 50Amp 50MV.

UNIT: 24 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER
MODEL: ACTIVATOR 282
DATE MANUFACTURED: _____
SERIAL #: _____
PROCEDURE: PPSP282VQ
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS: NOMINAL 74°F 38% R.H.
DATE CALIBRATED: _____
CALIBRATED BY: _____
SHIPPED CONDITION: _____ CALIBRATED / IN TOLERANCE – PASSED

Lamar Technologies LLC. certifies that the above listed instrument meets or exceeds all published specifications. It has been calibrated using standards MIL-I-45208 whose accuracies are traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

12. Warranty

1 YEAR WARRANTY

Lamar Technologies LLC. warrants its products to be free from defects in workmanship and material for a one-year period from the date of shipment to the distributor, original equipment manufacturer (OEM), or original end user. If any product shall prove to be defective during the warranty period, Lamar Technologies LLC. will repair or replace such part.

There are no warranties, which extend beyond the description on the face hereof. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied. Lamar Technologies LLC. excludes liability for incidental and consequential damages.

An action for breach of this warranty must be commenced within one year after the breach is or should have been discovered.

Lamar Technologies LLC. specifically disclaims all other representations to the first user/purchaser, and all other obligations or liabilities. No person is authorized to give any other warranties or to assume any liabilities on Lamar Technologies LLC. behalf.



Revisions

13. Revisions

Rev. 1.0	19 January 2013	Original Issue
Rev 1.1	22 January 2013	Added warranty and certificate of calibration. Changed front photo to include typical connection to battery.
Rev 2.1	27 February 2-13	Changed front photo. Changed revision sequence to match existing Activator documentation. Changed timing tolerance. Restated the charge cycling criterion.