

Bringing power to the people



Optimate 2, £40

This charger uses four lights to show what it's up to, and you'll want the instructions to hand. If it alternates between amber and the second green light the charger is attempting to recover a deeply discharged battery. If this goes on for more than two hours without it switching to a solid amber or green, the battery is dead.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? No Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? Yes
More info: www.tecmate-int.com



Oxford Maximiser 3800, £64.99

The simplest to understand of all chargers here, thanks to a series of words that illuminate on the unit to show which charging stage is underway – recover, charge and maintain. There's also an LCD screen that shows the voltage, and how much charge it is receiving. Also has modes to charge bigger batteries, too.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? No Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? Yes
More info: www.oxprod.com



BC Easy 6, £37.49

Simple to follow once you've read the instructions, with a green light that blinks quickly if the charger is attempting to recover a sulphated battery, slowly when charging a healthy battery, and illuminates permanently once the battery's fully charged. It won't recover batteries with less than 5V of charge.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? Yes Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? Yes
More info: www.wemoto.com



CTEK MXS 5.0, £79.99

The Swedish firm's eight-stage charger makes it very clear what it's up to – it says if it's attempting to recover a sulphated battery by giving it a high 2A charge, if it's charging a healthy battery, when it thinks there's enough charge to start the bike, when it's fully charged, and when it's being kept in tip-top condition.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? Yes Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? Yes
More info: www.ctek.com



Oxford Oximiser 900, £49.99

It's along the same lines as Oxford's more expensive Maximiser charger, but it has a more compact LCD screen and will only charge bike batteries, not those on big vehicles. Everything on the display is self-explanatory, making it very easy to use. It'll charge batteries from 4V, but has no desulphation mode.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? No Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? No
More info: www.oxprod.com



Ring Smartcharge+4, £39.99

Ring's beefier charger puts in a relatively hefty charging rate of a minimum of 2A (most here are 1A or less) and it is as confusing to use as its smaller sibling. The Smartcharge+4 also responded identically when we connected it to a dead battery and one that was almost fully charged – the 'fully charged' light illuminated for both.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
No Croc clips shrouded? No Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? No
More info: www.ringautomotive.co.uk



Yuasa YCX 0.8, £49.99

Japanese firm Yuasa claims its batteries are standard equipment on nine out of 10 new bikes, making it a fair bet it knows how batteries work. This YCX 0.8 is essentially a rebadged CTEK XS 0.8, which has six stages of charge, including a recovery mode for sulphated batteries and a maintenance mode for healthy ones.

Batteries charged: 12V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? Yes Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? Yes
More info: www.yuasaeurope.com



BikeTek 4-stage battery charger, £49.99

Handy for those with old bikes with a 6V system, this can also be used to charge car batteries by switching modes. It doesn't warn you if it considers a battery beyond recovery. The instructions aren't the clearest but it has lights to show the state of charging.

Batteries charged: 12V/6V Permanent battery cable?
Yes Croc clips shrouded? No Wall mountable? Yes
Desulphation mode? No
More info: www.bikeittrade.com