Milton 1260

Milton 1260 100 AMP Battery Tester Instruction Manual

Model: 1260

Introduction

The Milton 1260 100 AMP Battery Tester is designed for testing 6-volt and 12-volt automotive batteries, starter systems, and charging systems. This robust tool provides quick and accurate readings to help diagnose battery health and electrical system performance in cars and trucks. It features an easy-to-read analog display and heavy-duty components for reliable operation.

Important Safety Information

Read and understand all safety instructions before operating this battery tester. Failure to follow these instructions may result in electric shock, fire, or serious injury.

- Always wear eye protection and protective clothing when working with batteries.
- Batteries can produce explosive gases. Ensure adequate ventilation and avoid open flames or sparks near the battery.
- Do not touch battery terminals or clamps with bare hands while testing.
- Ensure the vehicle's ignition is off and the parking brake is engaged before connecting the tester.
- Keep the tester away from moisture and extreme temperatures.
- Do not use the tester if it is damaged.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Product Overview

The Milton 1260 Battery Tester consists of a main unit with an analog meter, a load switch, and two heavy-duty battery clamps connected by 4-gauge wires.

Figure 1: Milton 1260 100 AMP Battery Tester. This image shows the main unit with its analog display, red load switch, and attached red and black battery clamps.

- **Analog Meter:** Displays battery voltage, battery capacity, cranking ability, and charging system status.
- **Load Switch:** Activates the 100 AMP load for battery testing.
- **Heavy-Duty Clamps:** Red clamp for positive (+) terminal, Black clamp for negative (-) terminal.
- **4-Gauge Wires:** Durable cables connecting the clamps to the tester.

Setup and Preparation

1. Ensure the battery terminals are clean and free of corrosion. Clean them with a wire brush if necessary.
2. Verify the battery is a 6-volt or 12-volt lead-acid battery. This tester is not suitable for other battery types.
3. Ensure the vehicle's ignition is off and all accessories are turned off.
4. Connect the **RED** positive (+) clamp to the positive (+) battery terminal.
5. Connect the **BLACK** negative (-) clamp to the negative (-) battery terminal.
6. Confirm a secure connection for both clamps.

Operating Instructions

1. Battery Voltage Test

After connecting the clamps, the analog meter will immediately display the battery's open-circuit voltage. Refer to the "VOLTS" scale on the meter.

- A fully charged 12V battery should read approximately 12.6V or higher.
- A fully charged 6V battery should read approximately 6.3V or higher.

2. Battery Load Test (Battery Capacity & Cranking Ability)

This test assesses the battery's ability to hold voltage under a load, indicating its capacity and cranking power.

1. With the clamps connected, press and hold the red load switch for no more than **10 seconds**.
2. Observe the voltage reading on the analog meter while the load switch is held.
3. Release the load switch immediately after 10 seconds or if the voltage drops below the minimum acceptable level.
4. Refer to the "BATTERY CAPACITY" and "CRANKING ABILITY" sections on the meter for interpretation:
    - **Green Zone:** Good battery.
    - **Yellow Zone:** Weak battery, may need charging or replacement.
    - **Red Zone:** Bad battery, requires replacement.
5. Allow the tester to cool for at least 1 minute between load tests to prevent overheating.

3. Charging System Test

This test checks if the vehicle's alternator is properly charging the battery.

1. Ensure the battery is fully charged before performing this test.
2. Connect the tester clamps to the battery terminals as described in "Setup".
3. Start the vehicle's engine.
4. With the engine running at idle, observe the voltage reading on the analog meter.
5. Increase engine RPM to approximately 1500-2000 RPM and observe the voltage again.
6. Refer to the "CHARGING SYSTEM" section on the meter:
    - **Green Zone (typically 13.5V - 14.5V for 12V systems):** Indicates a good charging system.
    - **Below Green Zone:** May indicate a faulty alternator, voltage regulator, or loose belt.
    - **Above Green Zone:** May indicate an overcharging issue, potentially damaging the battery.
7. Turn off the vehicle's engine after the test.

Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the tester with a clean, dry cloth after each use. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the tester in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight and moisture. Ensure the cables are neatly wrapped and the clamps are not touching each other or conductive surfaces.
- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically inspect the cables and clamps for any signs of damage, fraying, or corrosion. Replace the unit if significant damage is found.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No reading on meter	Loose or corroded connections; completely dead battery.	Ensure clamps are securely attached to clean battery terminals. Check battery voltage with a multimeter if possible.
Inaccurate readings	Poor connection; tester not cooled down between load tests.	Re-establish secure connections. Allow tester to cool for at least 1 minute between load tests.
Tester gets hot quickly	Normal during load test; load switch held too long.	This is normal for load testers. Do not hold the load switch for more than 10 seconds. Allow adequate cooling time.

Specifications

- **Model:** Milton 1260
- **Test Capacity:** 6-volt and 12-volt batteries
- **Load Current:** 100 Amps
- **Maximum Test Amperage:** Up to 120 Amps at 10 Volts
- **Cold Cranking Amps (CCA) Rating:** Up to 1,000 CCA
- **Display Type:** Analog Meter
- **Cable Gauge:** 4-gauge
- **Power Source:** Hand-powered (draws power from battery being tested)
- **Color:** Black
- **Dimensions (L x W x H):** Approximately 15 x 7.3 x 3.7 inches
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 1.6 ounces (0.1 pounds)
- **Certifications:** CE, UL

Warranty Information

This Milton 1260 Battery Tester is covered by Milton's standard manufacturer's warranty. For detailed information regarding warranty terms, conditions, and duration, please refer to the official Milton website or contact Milton customer support directly. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting, or inquiries regarding your Milton 1260 Battery Tester, please contact Milton customer support:

- **Website:** Visit the official Milton Industries website for FAQs and contact information.
- **Phone:** Refer to the contact section on the Milton website for the appropriate support number.

When contacting support, please have your product model number (1260) and purchase details available.