

FEATURES

- In-line charge controller, may mount in PV panel
- Micro controller for digital accuracy and reliability
- Fully automatic operation on 12V or 24VDC systems
- Built-in temperature compensation
- LED status indication of solar charge & battery level
- Will handle up to 25 AMPs @ 28VDC from PV panels
- Selectable operation: sealed/ flooded batteries
- Pulse action reduces battery sulfation

DESCRIPTION & OPERATION

The micro-processor based PVCM25 photo voltaic (PV) charge controller is used to connect PV panels to 12V or 24VDC storage batteries. The PVCM determines which mode to operate in, 12V or 24V, by measuring both battery voltage and PV charge voltage.

The PVCM25 performs five basic functions:

- It senses when the battery is fully charged and disconnects the PV charge current to avoid over-charging the battery.
- It resumes charging the battery when the battery voltage has dropped sufficiently to accept additional charge current.
- It checks the availability of PV charge current, by cycling the relay every 4 minutes. If there is insufficient charge current available, its internal relay will disconnect the battery to prevent discharge through the PV panels at night.
- It also compensates for battery temperature and adjusts the charge threshold voltages when mounted in battery case.
- Its microprocessor reduces the charging rate of fully charged batteries to minimize water addition requirements.

Three different colored LEDs indicate the status of the battery charge.

- Green = Full, ● Yellow = Partial, ● blinking orange = low

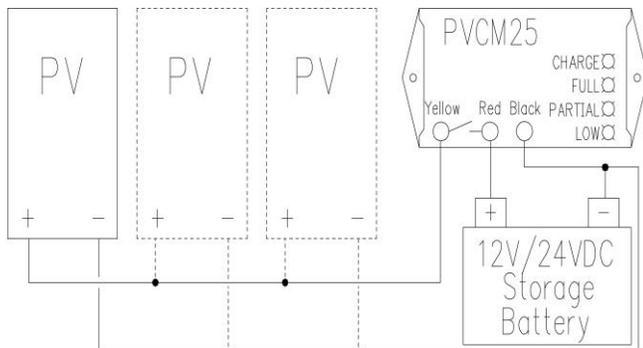
Note: When orange LED is blinking, due to low voltage, both the green and yellow LEDs will be dimly lit.

The temperature compensation works as follows: (lead acid)

below 0°C	on @ 13.3VDC	off @ 15.0VDC
between 0-5°C	on @ 13.3VDC	off @ 14.8VDC
between 5-10°C	on @ 13.1VDC	off @ 14.6VDC
between 10-15°C	on @ 12.9VDC	off @ 14.4VDC
between 15-30°C	on @ 12.7VDC	off @ 14.2VDC
between 30-35°C	on @ 12.7VDC	off @ 14.0VDC
between 35-40°C	on @ 12.6VDC	off @ 13.8VDC
between 40-45°C	on @ 12.6VDC	off @ 13.6VDC

Temperatures > 45°C on @ 12.7VDC off @ 14.2VDC
(The PVCM25 is mounted in the back of a solar panel.)

WIRING CONFIGURATION



SPECIFICATIONS

Size & Weight:	2.1 x 4.0 x 1.3 inches, 6 ounces
Enclosure:	Epoxy potted in PVC plastic
Power:	6 to 30VDC from storage battery
Connections:	Red 12 AWG wire – battery positive (+) Black 18 AWG wire – battery negative (-) Yellow 12 AWG wire – PV Panel positive (+)
Load Capacity:	25 AMPs @ 28VDC (Minimum is 10 watt panel)
Gel Cell Battery	Blue jumper clipped
Thresholds:	Voltages are 0.3VDC < above threshold voltages Room temp 20-25°C on @ 12.4VDC off @ 13.9VDC Double above threshold values for 24VDC systems
Flooded Battery	@ room temperature 15-30°C
Thresholds:	On @ 12.7VDC, off @ 14.2VDC On @ 25.4VDC, off @ 28.4VDC Accuracy ± 0.1VDC
Sealed Battery	Blue jumper clipped
Thresholds:	@ room temperature 15-30°C On @ 12.4VDC, off @ 13.9VDC On @ 24.8VDC, off @ 27.8VDC Accuracy ± 0.1VDC
Accuracy:	± 0.1VDC (12V System) ± 0.2VDC (24V System)
Current Draw:	Continuous - ≤7mA During charge - ≤ 55mA
LED Indication:	Red Charging mode Green ≥12.7VDC or 25.5VDC Yellow 11.2VDC to 13.3VDC 22.4VDC to 25.5VDC Orange ≤11.2V or 22.4V
Voltage Drop:	0.2VDC @ 25AMPs
Minimums:	Charge current - 80mA Open PV voltage - 16V or 32VDC
Maximums:	Charge current - 80mA Open PV voltage – 16V or 32VDC
Internal Shunt:	.005 Ω, 100 millivolt @ 25 AMPs
Temperature:	-30 to 75°C
Relay Life:	100 million plus mechanical operations

INSTALLATION TIPS

1. Exposed connections should be waterproofed. Grease or silicon will adequately protect connections such as splices. Clip blue jumper wire for sealed battery threshold charge.
2. When wiring the PV panel into the battery system, adequate wire size must be used. 12 AWG or larger wire is recommended. If smaller wire is used, the battery may not achieve full charge.
3. Check the battery fluid level as specified by the battery manufacturer.
4. Install the PVCM25 in the battery enclosure for the temperature compensation to work properly.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Problem: Module does not click on with sunlight on the PV panels.

Solution: Verify that the battery voltage is less than 12.7V (or 25.4V on a 24V system) and that the open PV voltage is greater than 16V (or 32V on a 24v system). If the battery voltage is at or above 12.7V and PV voltage is above 16VDC, apply additional load to drop the battery voltage below 12.7VDC. If the PV voltage is below 16VDC, check to see if the Solar panel has direct sunlight: **To work properly there cannot be any shadows from trees, buildings, etc.**

Problem: Module clicks every four minutes.

Solution: This is the normal operating sequence.

Problem: Module is constantly clicking on & off. Battery voltage is less than 12.7VDC and PV voltage is greater than 16VDC.

Solution: Check the Battery voltage on the battery posts to see if it is fluctuating up & down or remaining steady.

When the voltage on the battery positive post is fluctuating between 12.7VDC and the solar panel voltage, the battery may have a bad cell. **Have the battery tested.**

When the voltage is steady, then check voltage on the battery cables. If it is fluctuating up and down, **clean the connections** between battery post and battery cables.

When the voltage is steady, check the voltage on the battery buss bar inside the trailer, inspect for water damage or oxidation which can cause a high resistance between controller and battery. **Clean and grease connections with NoALOX™.**

When the voltage is steady at the buss bar (main termination or connection point) then check the voltage at the charge controller between the red and black wires. If fluctuating at the controller then test the battery side of the connector, if stable replace connector. If fluctuating, test both sides of the fuse holder to ground (black wire) if stable on battery side of fuse. Replace fuse holder. Any of these connectors could have some oxidation in the connections or fuse holders due to moisture.

When the PVCM25 is still clicking 20-30 times a minute, after replacing the connection (bat + red wire) at the controller and at the positive buss bar, we recommend connecting the controller's bat + red wire to the battery using a 10 gauge wire to rule out a hidden connections that could be causing the problem.

The PVCM25 controller monitors battery and solar voltage to know when to charge the battery and when to stop charging. If the voltage is fluctuating between 12.7VDC and 14.2VDC, 99% of the time it is a bad connection between the controller and the battery or a bad battery.

Problem: The PVCM25 charge controller enters the charge routine every 10 to 15 minutes and only charges for 3 to 4 minutes.

Solution: The PVCM25 is working normally. The PVCM25 monitors both the Battery voltage and PV voltage, when the trailers loads draw the battery down below 12.7VDC the controller begins a new charge cycle. If the PV panel is putting out its maximum charge current it may only take 3 to 5 minutes to bring the battery voltage up to the 14.2VDC cutout point. The timing may vary based on the loads and output from the PV panels.

Problem: The battery loads have been left on and the storage battery has discharged below 9VDC. The PV system is not charging when the load is turned off.

Solution: The PVCM25 needs at least 9VDC from the battery to operate properly. Place panel in direct sunlight and jump the battery & PV bolts for 30 minutes, thus bypassing the charge controller allowing the battery voltage to rise to at least 9VDC. Disconnecting the jumper will allow the PVCM25 to charge the battery up to normal levels.

MOUNTING AT BATTERY LOCATION

Connect the PVCM25 controller wires to battery terminals. Use 2 #8 x .75" L screws to secure PVCM25 if possible.

MOUNTING AT PHOTO VOLTAIC PANEL

Note: The temperature compensation function reverts to on @ 12.7VDC off @ 14.2VDC for temps above 45°C.

MOUNTING AT BATTERY LOCATION

