Car battery voltage chart uk

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Without a functioning car battery, you wouldn?t be able to automatically operate your car windows, lock your car doors from the inside, or keep music playing when you stop ? among other things. For something that plays such a crucial role in the experience of operating a car, the battery is a really underestimated piece of equipment.

Aiming to do the humble battery justice, we?ve written this guide to voltage. Read on to find out what the correct voltage measurements for your car?s battery should be.

As we?ve said, not everyone is familiar with the inner workings of their car battery. So, let?s get acquainted. The battery is responsible for three things:Controlling any electrical components of your car when the engine isn?t running.Providing the ?spark? needed to get the engine moving when starting your car.Protecting against voltage spikes by stabilising the car?s circuit voltage when the engine is running.

When you start your car, the battery must provide the current that?s needed to get the starter motor going. In turn, this turns over the engine to get it running. At this point, the alternator can power the electrical systems or is, at least, providing the battery with the necessary charge to keep electrical systems running without depleting.

While we?ve mentioned voltage in passing, and you?re likely to have heard it used frequently before ? what actually is voltage? The short answer is that voltage is the ?pressure? in a circuit.

A useful way to think about this is to compare it to a water system. Domestic mains water pipes are pressurised up to a certain point, but a tap provides enough ?resistance? that no water comes out of it until you turn it on. When you turn it on, the amount of water that comes out is proportional to the size of the water pipes and the pressure that is being applied. A big pipe at the same pressure usually means more water.

Similarly, the voltage in an electric circuit is the ?potential? energy ? the pressure that is potentially being applied when the circuit is allowed to flow. UK mains voltage is standardised to 230 volts.

When we talk about car battery voltage, we are usually talking about 12V batteries ? that is, batteries that provide 12 volts under a nominal load. That being said, there are different types, you may come across van or leisure batteries, for example. The actual voltage you can measure, however, is likely to be quite different from 12 volts exactly.

Imagine this: you?re running late for work, you jog to the car, and go to start the ignition and nothing happens. The battery is flat. Maybe you left the interior light on overnight or maybe the battery died. For drivers everywhere, this is probably the most frustrating experience ? especially if you don?t know how to jump start

it or don?t own jump leads.

Keeping tabs on the voltage of your car?s battery is a surefire way to avoid any unnecessary battery failure, condition demise, or voltage spikes that may cause harm to your car?s electrical system. Find out how to check your battery health at home here.

When it comes to the ?correct? voltage for your car?s battery, there?s not really one straightforward answer we?re afraid. Why? Because your voltage will fluctuate based on the usage of your car ? it will differ based on when your car is switched off, running, or starting. Let?s explore these differentiations now.

When your car engine is turned off, a fully-charged car battery should have a voltage measurement of 12.6 volts, also known as resting voltage. This is enough to power certain electrical components in the car that need to have a memory (like your car?s clock) or things like your car?s alarm system.

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