

Don't Throw Away Those Batteries!

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Buying too many batteries? Do you feel like your "rapid charger" is "rapidly" ruining your batteries so they can "charge" you for new ones? You may want to reevaluate your choice of battery chargers. Consider the long-term benefit of your purchase. An investment in an intelligent battery charger could actually save thousands in battery and labor costs. A low-cost charger that doesn't maintain batteries in peak condition can cause high battery turnover. In fact, whether you're buying batteries, chargers, headphones or cases, the lowest-cost option isn't always the wisest purchase.

The widespread misuse of low-tech trickle and rapid chargers – overcharging, short-charging and under-formatting – reduces capacity, reliability and the lifecycle of batteries. Few radio users understand proper battery maintenance, or realize that a "green light" usually means that a battery has only reached ~80% capacity. Users are instructed to leave the battery on charge for up to **two more hours**, [*the same rule applies to cellular phone charging!!*] but often remove and use the battery at first light. Without proper management, batteries designed to last for years are replaced yearly -- usually after they have failed or frustrated the user.

Since few customers have the time, manpower or desire to run a battery maintenance program, the ideal solution is to purchase an intelligent charging system that will maintain batteries in peak condition for years without any special effort from the user.

An optimal solution charges a battery responsively for maximum performance. Patented **enrev™** technology, available in the iCHARGE™ battery chargers by Advanced Charger Technology (**ACT**), is the only technology available that uses real-time feedback and control to measure the electrochemical condition of the battery and respond with the optimal dynamic waveform of current.

"We needed something to increase the dependability of batteries, which often go dead in high-need situations," explains Tessco and **ACT** customer, Michael Kiron, who recently purchased additional **ACT** chargers for his emergency preparedness plan. "The [fast, intelligent charger] in our mobile communication unit is useful in emergencies. We use [it] every day to save money. We rejuvenate batteries instead of throwing them away, and reduce our battery costs."

Proprietary **enrev** technology delivers consistent and reliable radio performance, charges fast and triples cycle life without complicated maintenance. The unique algorithm conditions batteries as it charges – without the need to discharge first – and terminates without overcharging. The high-current charge is so efficient that NiCd batteries charge in as little as 20-30 minutes, NiMH in 45-60, and new batteries format in only two hours.

"A carefree charging system is an extremely good thing to have," explains **ACT** customer Jeff Vaughn, a Radio Systems Specialist with the Douglass County, Colorado Sheriff's office. "The #1 advantage: when the green light comes on, it's done -- not 80% and starting to trickle charge. Officers know that the battery will be good for the whole shift. Another great advantage, the 30-minute charging time, helps us get radios into service quickly."

Whether you're spending hundreds or 10s of thousands of dollars on batteries each year, it's your job to spend that money wisely. Ironically, large battery replacement budgets and small capital equipment budgets can discourage charger replacement programs. When purchasing batteries and chargers, think about the true goals of your agency. If safety, reliability, saving money and saving time top your list, ask your Tessco representative to help you choose a solution that works for you. By making intelligent chargers a priority, you can achieve all your goals and stay within your budget.