

Battery care

A: maintain electrolyte level to approximately 1/4 inch above the plates, any higher than this is wasted, but it's very important not to let the level fall below the top of plates because it dramatically reduces the output of the battery to the extent of 5% per every 1/2 inch below top of plates. Check electrolyte level regularly, particularly if using the car on long runs because the A7 is not fitted with compensated voltage control, which means when the battery voltage exceeds 6-8 volts the plates will start to (gas off) and evaporate the distilled water.

B: keep the terminals free from corrosion, to clean excessive corrosion brush on a strong alkaline solution (domestic washing powder) and when refitting use a liberal smear of Vaseline or normal grease.

C: If possible use de-ionised distilled water for topping up battery cells, but acceptable substitutes are condensate from a domestic condenser tumble dryer or from a room de-humidifier.

D: Finally when disconnecting battery, always remove firstly the terminal connected to the cars bodywork (called the earth) if you remove the live terminal first and your spanner slips enough to make contact with the bodywork then this will result in a dangerous dead short.

Eddie Loader

A seasonal note. Whilst freezing temperatures will not affect a well charged battery, a discharged one can easily be damaged. So, best to keep your battery well charged in the winter. Ed.
