

NICKEL-METAL HYDRIDE BATTERIES

Charge is the process of restoring a discharged battery to its original capacity. In order for a battery to be usable for a long period of time, it must be charged via the proper charge methods. Various methods are used to charge rechargeable cells, but U power recommends the charge methods described below to charge its nickel-metal hydride batteries.

1. Rapid charge current: 1CmA (rapid charge temperature range: 0°C to 40°C (32°F–104°F)). In order to exercise proper control to stop rapid charge, it is recommended that batteries be charged at over 0.5CmA but less than 1CmA. Charging batteries at a current in excess of 1CmA may cause the safety vent to be activated by a rise in the internal pressure of the batteries, thereby resulting in electrolyte leakage. When the temperature of the batteries is detected by a NTC thermistor or other type of sensor, and their temperature is under 0°C (32°F) or over 40°C (104°F) at the commencement of the charge, then trickle charge, rather than rapid charge, must be performed. Rapid charge is stopped when any one of the values among the types of control described in (4), (5), (6), and (11) reaches the prescribed level.

2. Allowing a high current to flow into excessively discharged or deep-discharged batteries during charge may make it impossible to sufficiently restore the capacity of the batteries. To charge excessively discharged or deep-discharged batteries, first allow a trickle current to flow, and then proceed with the rapid charge current once the battery voltage has risen.

3. Rapid charge start voltage: Approx. 0.8V/cell Rapid charge transition voltage restoration current: 0.2–0.3 CmA.

4. Upper battery voltage limit control: Approx. 1.6V/cell. The charge method is switched over to trickle if the battery voltage reaches approximately 1.6V/cell due to trouble or malfunctioning of some kind.

5. ΔV value: 5 to 10mV/cell. When the battery voltage from its peak drops 5 to 10mV/cell during rapid charge, rapid charge is stopped, and the charge method is switched over to trickle charge.

6. dT/dt value: Approx. 0.8–1°C/min. When a rise in the battery temperature per unit time is detected by a thermistor or other type of temperature sensor during rapid charge, and the prescribed temperature rise is sensed, rapid charge is stopped and the charge method is switched over to trickle charge.

7. TCO: 48°C for D, 3/2M, F and M; 50°C for other models. The cycle life and other characteristics of batteries are impaired if the batteries are allowed to become too hot during charge. In order to safeguard against this, rapid charge is stopped and the charge method is switched over to trickle charge when the battery temperature has reached the prescribed level.

8. Initial delay timer: to 10 min. This prevents the ΔV detection circuit from being activated for a specific period of time after rapid charge has commenced. However, the dT/dt detection circuit is allowed to be activated during this time. As with Ni-Cd batteries the charge voltage of nickel-metal hydride batteries may show signs of swinging (pseudo- ΔV) when they have been kept standing for a long time or when they have been discharged excessively, etc. The initial delay timer is needed to prevent charge from stopping (to prevent malfunctioning) due to this pseudo- ΔV .

9. Trickle current: 1/30 to 1/20CmA. When the trickle current is set higher, the temperature rise of the batteries is increased, causing the battery characteristics to deteriorate.

10. Rapid charge transfer: 60min.

11. Rapid charge timer: 90 min. (at 1C charge)

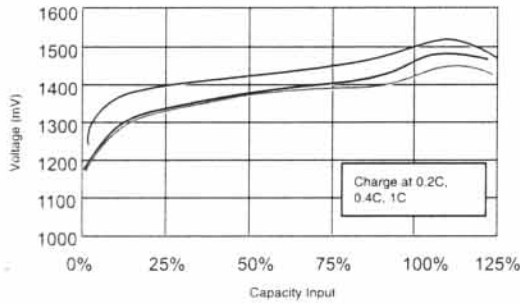
12. Total timer: less than 15 hours.

The overcharging of nickel-metal hydride batteries, even by trickle charging, causes a deterioration in the characteristics of the batteries. To prevent overcharging by trickle charging or any other charging method, the provision of a timer to regulate the total charging time is recommended.

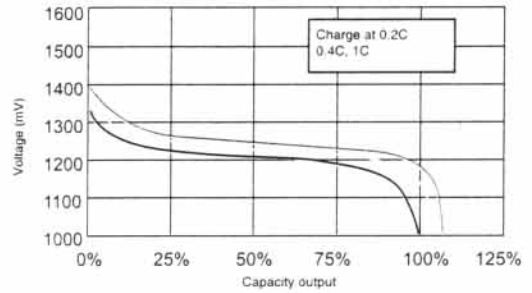
(A) The temperature and voltage of nickel-metal hydride batteries varies depending on the shape of the battery pack, the number of cells, the arrangement of the cells, and other factors. Therefore U power should be consulted for more detailed information on the referenced charge control values.

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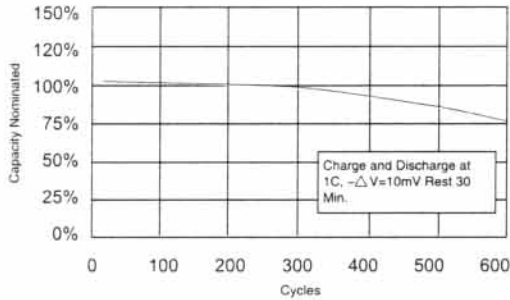
Charge Curve



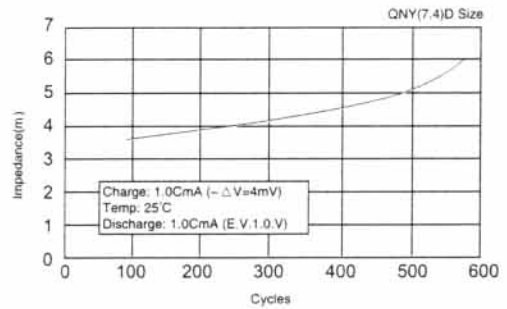
Discharge Curve



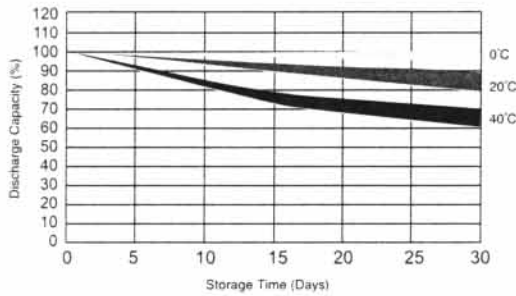
Cycle Life Curve



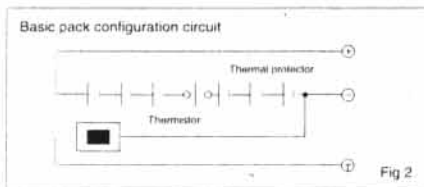
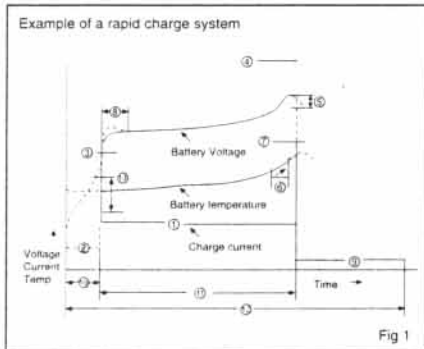
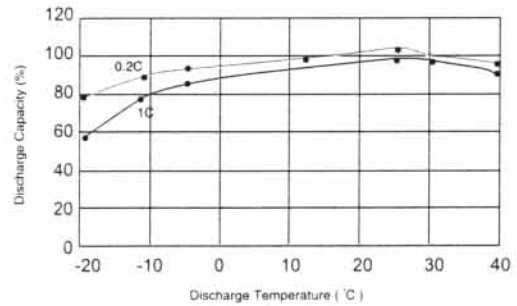
Impedance. Cycle Curve



Storage Characteristics



Discharge. Temperature Characteristics



(1) Rapid charge current	Max. 1CmA to 0.5CmA
(2) Rapid charge transition voltage restoration current	0.2 to 0.3 CmA
(3) Rapid charge start voltage	Approx. 0.8V/cell
(4) Charge terminating voltage	1.6V/cell
(5) $-\Delta V$ value	5 to 10m V/cell
(6) Battery temperature rising rate dT/dt value	0.8 to 1 °C/min
(7) Maximum battery temperature TCO	48°C for D,F, 2/3M and M 50°C for other models
(8) Initial- ΔV detection disabling timer	5 to 10 min
(9) Trickle current (after rapid charge)	1/30 to 1/20 CmA
(10) Rapid charge transfer timer	60min
(11) Rapid charge timer	90min (at 1CmA charge)
(12) Total timer	15 hours
(13) Rapid charge temperature range	0 to 40°C(32 °F to 104°F)