GasTon™ BATTERY

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THE GASTON

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL OF BATTERIES

GasTon

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GASTON Has published this booklet to give the layman battery user an insight to lead Acid Batteries. Please accept it as a guide. It is not intended to replace in-depth technical publications that exist and are available on request.

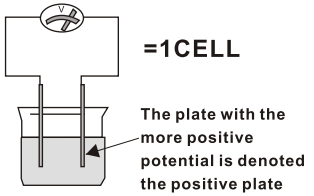
Contents

section

What is a battery?

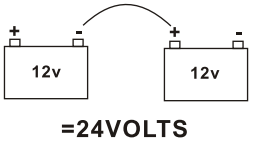
A battery is an electric storage device which can be found in any number of shapes, sizes, voltages and capacities.

When two materials (often dissimilar metals) are immersed in a solution they conduct electricity, between the "plates " causing an electrical potential. The value of this potential (or voltage)is dependent on the materials used. giving rise to a whole family of battery types each having benefits and restrictions in use, Examples are: lead acid, nickel cadmium (nicad)'Lithium, silver alkaline.



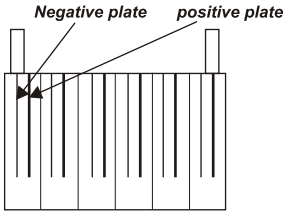
This manual is concerned only with one battery technology - the most successful-lead acid-lead and lead oxide immersed in sulphuric acid. Each cell having a 2 volt potential.

A battery is simply a number of cells connected together with a given voltage and capacity . The more cells the higher the voltage, the larger the plates the higher the capacity (in general).



=24VOLTS

Purely for convenience, batteries are made in 12 volt blocks with 6 cells but are also available in 6 volt,4 volt and even 2 volt, single cell blocks.



6 CELL=12 VOLT
LEAD-ACID BATTERY

You can however connect blocks in series to the required voltage, and blocks in parallel to the required capacity(see Section 3).

The lead-acid battery

There are two concepts in lead-acid batteries

1.Sealed or Valve Regulated Lead Acid VRLA
2.Open=Vented

There are three basic applications

1.industrial
2.Automotive(starter i.e.Cars, commercial vehicles)
3.Traction(Electric motor drive i.e. Milkfloat)

WARNING-DO NOT USE THE WRONG BATTERY FOR THE APPLICATION.

This guide is focused on industrial standby applications and NOT Automotive and Traction use.

Industrial batteries

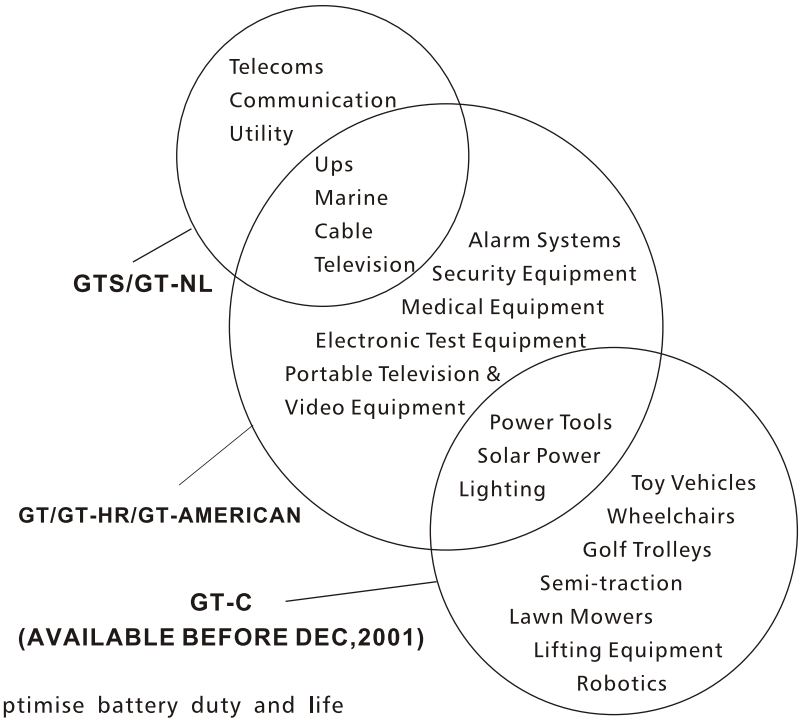
Industrial batteries are available from two distinct groups with the following features. Note that VRLA have superseded open-vented in many applications.

OPEN-VENTED	SEALED/VRLA
• Older technology	• Environmentally friendly
• Require separate battery room	• Use directly in office environment
• Regular routine maintenance	• Low maintenance- "Maintenance free"
• Separate safety requirements	• Self-contained .Safe
• Store/use in vertical position	• Store/use in any orientation
• Can require extensive cabling	• Can be used internal or adjacent to load
• VRLA has in many instances replaced the open-vented type.	

Note:the term sealed lead-acid SLA is an old acronym considered misleading and is now replaced by Valve Regulated Lead Acid VRLA.

Typical Applications

The GASTON range focuses on VRLA technology.



To optimise battery duty and life for your application, make sure you choose the right product from the GASTON range.

It is vitally important to define your priority before size of battery. These include:

high rate performance
long life-unattended
High cycle life
cost effectiveness

Choosing the correct size of battery

As mentioned earlier , batteries come in all shapes and sizes, from types no larger than a shirt button, to a battery system filling an entire room.

To find the size of battery you require you generally need two pieces of information battery load and back-up times. (Note: other factors may also have an effect).

Battery Load

Whether you power lights ,motors ,electronic equipment or a toy vehicle your equipment will draw a load in AMPS. If this is unknown then the equipment will have a rating expressed in Watts which may simply be converted to Amps by dividing the value by the normal voltage of the system.
Example, You have chosen GT-C for high cycle life and wish to drive a power tool rated at 120 watts 12 volts.
Load current = 120÷12-10 Amps

Back-up time

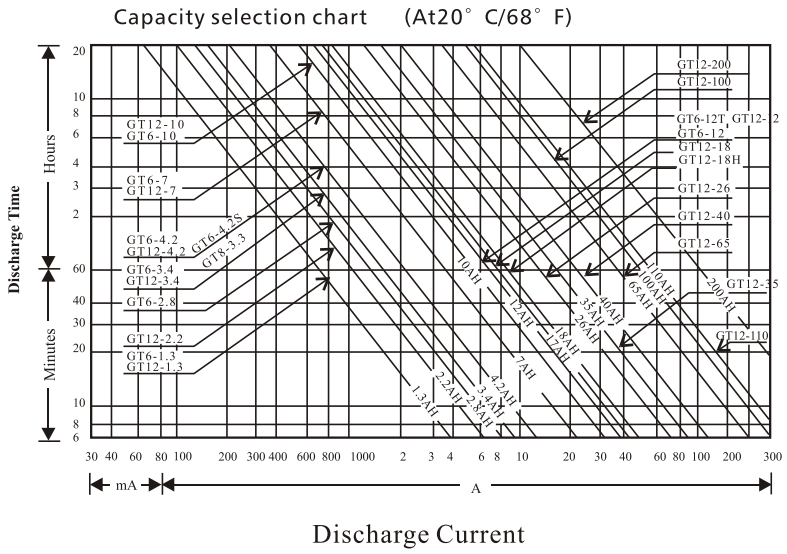
This is the time you require the battery to support the load described above and is often called Autonomy or discharge time.

Example, To power a cordless electric tool for a total for a total of 3.0 hours before recharging.

With these two pieces of information use our selection graph to plot an intersection point from which you will determine a required size or capacity in Amp. Hours(Ah).

Our figure No.1 has been rationalised into rounded figures of capacity .if your intersection point falls between two lines choose the next highest value.

Figure No. 1 GT Types



Always choose a suitable sized battery from the ranges appropriate to your application.

You may notice that the chosen capacity in Amp hours is often higher than the value of Amps X hours used, in our example using 10Amps X 3HRS = 30AH and the chosen option being 38Ah. This is because the capacity ' cA' of each GT battery is stated at the 20hour discharge rate. You will only get full capacity if discharged over the length of time.

4 Charging

Correct charging of a VRLA battery is essential in optimising battery performance and life. Although a constant voltage charge should be applied, optimum charging also depends on temperature (Nominally 20℃), charge current (max 1/4 battery capacity) and ripple current (minimum). Two basic categories of charging exist.

Float/Standby

This charging method is used in applications such as emergency back-up when the battery is required only upon mains failure e.g., Alarm Panels, Emergency Lighting , UPS . In each case the battery is continuously on charge and consequently the recommended voltages are slightly lower than cyclic charging so as not to damage the battery .(Float voltage for GASTON GT range = 2.25-2.3 volts / cell).These figures may vary between different battery types.

Cyclic

Cyclic charging is used in applications where the battery is repeatedly discharged then charged, e. g. Portable equipment ,wheel Chairs ,Golf trolleys etc.

A higher charging voltage is used but should NEVER be left on indefinitely since it will overcharge and destroy the battery .(Cyclic voltage for Gaston . GT range = 2.4-2.5 volts /cell)

For optimum performance always recharge a battery immediately after discharging.

Battery Storage, Care & Maintenance

The storage or shelf life of a VRLA battery is usually between 9 to 12 months at 20℃ starting from a charged condition.

Warning -Never store in a discharged or partially discharged state.

Always store in a dry, clean, cool environment in a fully packaged condition.

If storage of 6 months or longer is required supplementary charging will be required.

Design life

Float

Each battery type will have a proscribed float design life. Please be aware of this life expectancy and replace the battery as end-of -life approaches. Keep a reference or label the battery to show its date of installation as this will indicate replacement at the right time.

Cyclic

Each battery suited to cyclic use will have a proscribed quantity of cycles to end of life and is dependant on depth of discharge. The depth of discharge is expressed as a percentage of the capacity required per duty cycle.

Near the end-of-life the standby capacity of the battery will reduce. When this reduction becomes persistently regular, this indication can also be used for the time of replacement.

Battery Care

Each GASTON VRLA battery should be supplied in a charged condition having passed stringent quality checks.
To ensure optimum battery performance and life, it helps to take care of your battery by observing the following:

Sulphation /Undercharge

WARNING-Never leave a VRLA Battery in a discharged state.

If a battery has an open-circuit voltage lower than its rated value, then sulphation may well be the cause.

When a battery is left in a discharged state or for prolonged periods of storage lead sulphate crystals begin to form acting as a barrier to recharge and will prevent normal battery operation.

Depending on the degree of sulphation, a battery may be recovered from the condition by constant current charging at a higher voltage with the current limited to one tenth of the battery capacity for a maximum of 12 hours.

Note the applied voltage will exceed the normal recommendation and so the battery must be monitored (not left unattended) and removed from charge if excess heat is dissipated. The voltage required to "force" this maximum current into the battery will reduce as the battery recovers until normal charging can take place.

In extreme circumstances a battery may never fully recover from sulphation and must therefore be replaced.

Overcharge

As mentioned in Section 4 optimum charging relies mainly on voltage, current and temperature factors which are interrelated and all of which can cause overcharge.

Excessive charge voltages will force a high overcharge current into the battery , which will dissipate as heat ,and may cause gas emission through the safety valve. Within a short period of time this will corrode the positive plate material and accelerate the battery towards end-of-life.

Under these conditions the heat produced inside the battery can lead to thermal runaway due to the increased electrochemical reaction of the battery .the battery may swell before failing and will be irrecoverable from this state.

Temperature

Warning - Heat Kills Batteries.

The recommended normal operating temperature is 20° C-50° C

HIGH TEMPERATURE will reduce battery service life often quite dra-matically (see figures 2 and 3), and in extreme cases can cause Thermal Runaway, resulting in high oxygen /hydrogen gas production and battery swelling. Batteries are irrecoverable from this condition and should be replaced.

Temperature(℃)	20°	25°	30°	35°	40°	45°	50°
%Expected Float Life	100%	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	10%

Figure 2

Notice that high temperatures will give increased Performance but only as a loss in life

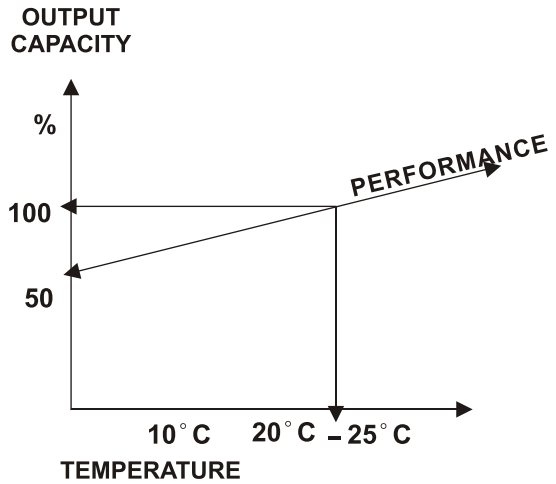


Figure 3

LOW TEMPERATURES will help to ensure a long service life but batteries used at low temperatures have reduced performance

Battery Safety

danger

Batteries are electrically live at all times , take great care never to short-circuit the battery terminals.

danger

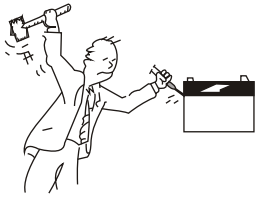
High D.C. Voltages ,are more dangerous than the mains

warning

Batteries are often heavy ,take care when lifting and transporting batteries, For weight above 24kilos, lifting aids should be used.

warning

Do not attempt to remove battery lid or tamper with the battery internal workings. VRLA Batteries are"low-maintenance" requiring no electrolyte top-up or measurement of specific gravity.

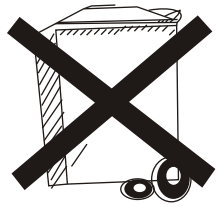


Disposal/Re-Cycling

Finally, when a battery has reached the end-of-life it must be returned to the point of sale or to a licensed battery dealer for recycling. Please observe the following points.

Caution

Do not throw batteries in a bin at end-of-life. VRLA batteries contain substances harmful to the environment so return to your supplier or take to your Council tip for disposal.



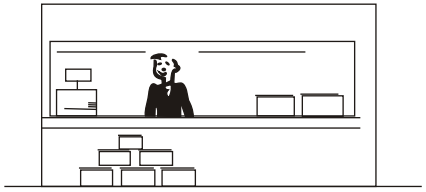
Pb

Caution

Never bury in the ground or incinerate at end-of-life. Batteries contain harmful substances making this unsafe.

Always

Return the spent battery to your stockists ,the local council tip or any licensed battery dealer for recycling.



Jargon Made Easy

Abbreviations

VRLA	-Valve regulated -Lead acid battery.
SLA	-Sealed Lead-acid
CCV	-Closed-circuit Voltage.
OCV	-Open-circuit voltage.
WPC	-Watts per cell.
pb	-Chemical symbol for lead.
Ah	-Amp hour. The unit of battery capacity
DOM	-Date of manufacture.
EOD	-End of discharge.
VPC	-Volts per cell.
Nc	-Number of cells.
Vf	-Float voltage.
Vs	-Starting voltage.
LAV	-Average current.
Sg	-Specific gravity
cAn	-Is the defined capacity of the battery to the 'n' time period.
20hr rate	-The capacity a battery will deliver over 20hrs

Definitions

Battery-one or more cells

Float/Standby-continuous charging for use in an emergency or back-up application.

Cyclic-Continual discharge/recharge application Often associated with traction applications.

Battery String Or Bank- a number of batteries connected in series will constitute one string. Strings can then be connected in parallel to achieve the required capacity.

Monobloc- A phrase used to Describe a multi-celled single Block.

Wet/Flooded-Open-vented Lead-acid cells which need topping up, i.e.Not maintenance free.

Stationary-Applications using static placed batteries.

Top-charging - A service charge during or after storage, usually at level slightly higher than normal float V.

GaSTon Battery

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POWER FROM HEART