



Search



Grumpy Goat ▾



Inbox



Alerts

R1200RS
Forums.com

Home

Forums

Members

Gallery

Home > Forums > BMW R1200RS Forums >

Post New Thread

Battery Charging

Discussion in 'Parts & Accessories' started by Bikepirate, Apr 19, 2018.

Unwatch Thread



Bikepirate

Member

Messages: 24

Likes Received: 27

Trophy Points: 13



I have read the various posts regarding battery charging and am still confused!. I tried plugging in my 3A smart charger into the power socket on the right hand side and the charger display just flashes. Normally on batteries, the smart charger display shows the battery voltage as it charges until finally says 'charged' The battery on my bike is not fully discharged, just down a bit after being left for a couple of weeks. I assume the centre post of the socket is positive?

Bikepirate, Apr 19, 2018 Report

#1 Like Reply



DABs

Active Member

Messages: 409

Likes Received: 227

Trophy Points: 43



Sounds like your charger is not canbus compatible. Use a pigtail connector from battery terminals (auxiliary post is more accessible).

DABs, Apr 19, 2018 Report

#2 Like Reply

MrVvrroomm likes this.



wessie

Well-Known Member

Messages: 936

Likes Received: 776

Trophy Points: 93



The battery will not discharge after a couple of weeks or months unless there is a parasitic load such as an alarm.

As DABs says, you cannot charge via the accessory socket unless you use a specially adapted charger than can switch on the socket. The socket is only live when the ignition is on. It is activated electronically via the CANBUS system so some smart chargers can wake it up using electricrery. Optimate 4 has this mode, as does a charger sold by BMW for 3 times the price.

Again, as DABs says, the simplest solution is a fly lead direct to the battery, or in the case of the RS, the red & black terminals provided under the side pod as the battery is not very accessible. I doubt your battery is very flat anyway. Just ride the bike.

If you have not noticed, the bike's display can tell you the battery voltage. What does it read?

2016 R1200RS SE Sport in Lupin Blue to keep the Tiger Explorer company

wessie, Apr 19, 2018 Report #3 Like Reply



Neo

New Member

Messages: 27

Likes Received: 13

Trophy Points: 3



You need a canbus compatible charger - I use an Optimate 4 on mine.

<https://tecmate.com/products/optimate4cb/>
or

<https://tecmate.com/products/optimate4dp/>

They are identical chargers, the first one is in canbus mode by default the second one is in normal mode. Both are switchable between mode 1 and 2.

Neo, Apr 19, 2018 Report #4 Like Reply



Barbelson

Well-Known Member



My sympathies Pirate. I had the same issue when I started. I just wanted to keep my battery topped up, in case circumstances stopped me riding for a while. The others are right, it is all about Can-bus.

Messages: 223

Likes Received: 281

Trophy Points: 63

The simplest solution, as suggested, is to buy an Optimate 4 Can-bus edition. This is perfect for the R1200RS. You simply plug it into the socket. Worth every penny.

Barbelson, Apr 19, 2018 Report #5 Like Reply

Jasper and boxerboy like this.



Michael

Well-Known Member

Messages: 374

Likes Received: 401

Trophy Points: 63



Neo said: ↑

*You need a canbus compatible charger
- I use an Optimate 4 on mine.*

<https://tecmate.com/products/optimate4cb/>

or

Click to expand...

Neo,

Where did you buy your Optimate 4?

Michael, Apr 19, 2018 Report #6 Like Reply



Grumpy Goat

Well-Known Member



Looks like the Optimate 4 is the correct solution if you *have* to charge through the stock socket on the RHS of the pillion seat. However my [general] question is this, assuming that the bike is off when the charger is being used:

Contributor

Messages: 4,004

Likes Received: 2,545

Trophy Points: 113

What is the technical advantage to using this more expensive dedicated charger as opposed to a cheaper smart charger that is connected directly to the battery via pigtail? Alternatively - what would it hurt to use a pigtail connected directly to the battery and regular smart charger?

To my way of thinking, the CAN-BUS system is for electronic signals and transmission of electricity whereas dumb functions like charging a battery can just as easily and more cost effectively be done with plain old wires and a good smart charger.

On my bike I installed a regular 12V cigarette lighter-type socket on my dashboard, that is connected directly to my battery. Its principal use is as a source of power for phone, radar detector, camera whatever. That is my "go-to" source for power up front and can also be used to charge the battery using my [Battery Tender® Plus 12V 1.25 Amp Battery Charger](#) which I bought with my previous bike. In addition, my dealership automatically connects a pigtail to each and every bike / brand they sell which suggests that it would not be injurious to the bike's EU to use. I have never used the stock

socket and would probably not even tap into it when I decide to run power to my top box, but as usual, I digress

Last edited: Apr 19, 2018

--

Regards

Grumpy Goat

Houston, TX

2016 BMW R1200RS Granite Grey Premium ("Grump the Grey")

Grumpy Goat, Apr 19, 2018 Edit Delete Report #7 Reply



James Bagley

Well-Known Member

Messages: 410

Likes Received: 383

Trophy Points: 63



I think I've mentioned this before, but there is a battery pigtail available from CTEK that features a voltage monitor with red-yellow-green colored LEDs to reveal charge levels. The LEDs are incorporated into the CTEK charge socket. With this, I never need wonder about the charge level of my battery.

https://www.amazon.com/CTEK-56-261-...31wmPexM%2BfL&preST=_SX300_QL70_&dpSrc=detail

<https://www.amazon.com/CTEK-56-564-Comfort-Indicator-Pigtail/dp/B002X6DQUA>

James Bagley, Apr 19, 2018 Report #8 Like Reply

Jim Evans likes this.



Phillo

Active Member

Messages: 461

Likes Received: 249

Trophy Points: 43



Grumpy Goat said: ↑

Looks like the Optimate 4 is the correct solution if you have to charge through the stock socket on the RHS of the pillion seat. However my [general] question is this, assuming that the bike is when the charger is being used:
Click to expand...

I agree 100% GG....I have a reasonably priced “ Intelligent charger “ and a Mini compressor both of which connect to the pigtail if and when necessary. There is no need to invest in an expensive canbus compatible charger

Phillo, Apr 19, 2018 Report #9 Like Reply

Jim Evans likes this.



Bob Ain't Stoppin'

Member

Messages: 75



Agreed, you really have no use for the supplied can bus socket. So I rewired mine direct to the battery and now use that for charging and also for my air compressor if I ever get a flat

Bob Ain't Stoppin', Apr 19, 2018 Report #10 Unlike Reply

Likes Received: 48

You, Mac J, boxter and 1 other person like this.

Trophy Points: 18



Bikepirate

Member

Messages: 24

Likes Received: 27

Trophy Points: 13



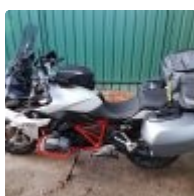
Bob Ain't Stoppin' said: ↑

Agreed, you really have no use for the supplied can bus socket. So I rewired mine direct to the battery and now use that for charging and also for my air compressor if I ever get a flat

Thanks to all for your inputs. I already have several chargers which I have accumulated over the years, so I'm not inclined to buy another!

Bob, your idea sounds the best for my application. Did you just snip the cables going to the existing socket and then solder/heatshrink a pigtail lead through to the auxiliary posts? Is there a need for an inline fuse or are the auxiliary posts already fused?

Bikepirate, Apr 19, 2018 Report #11 Like Reply



Michael said: ↑

Neo

New Member

Messages: 27

Likes Received: 13

Trophy Points: 3

Neo,

Where did you buy your Optimate 4?

I bought mine on eBay:

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/BMW-1Am...d-maintainer-with-accessory-plug/292516610039>

Express posted and it was plugged into the bike the next day. Also ended up buying an Optimate 6 for my ute too.

Neo, Apr 20, 2018 Report

#12 Like Reply



Bob Ain't Stoppin'

Member

Messages: 75

Likes Received: 48

Trophy Points: 18



Bikepirate said: ↑

Thanks to all for your inputs. I already have several chargers which I have accumulated over the years, so I'm not inclined to buy another! Bob, your idea sounds the best for my application. Did you just snip the

Pirate, I have a relay fuse rig that I wired to. It also powers my gps and Gerbings. In any case you do need to fuse this plug. Also note that the wire going to the plug is very small gauge. It did not look easy to get to the actual connection at the back of the plug, so I cut the wire and spliced in my new power

supply wire. But there is left a very short part of the skinny wire. Not the best solution, but it seems to work ok.

Bob Ain't Stoppin', Apr 21, 2018 Report #13 Like Reply



B *I* U **T** **A**

Write your reply...

[Post Reply](#) [Upload a File](#) [More Options...](#)

Share This Page

Tweet [Recommend](#) Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

XenForo add-ons by Waindigo™ ©2014 Waindigo Enterprises Ltd.

[Home](#) > [Forums](#) > [BMW R1200RS Forums](#) > [Parts & Accessories](#)

[Style Chooser](#)

[Terms and Rules](#) [Contact Us](#) [Help](#) [Home](#)

Advertising Positioning by Digital Point
Forum software by XenForo™ ©2010-2015 XenForo Ltd.



