

POWER PACK CARE AND CHARGING

The power pack is like a tank of energy. When using the tractor, this energy is drained. The charger replaces the used energy by properly converting and metering electricity into the power pack. The charger is designed to restore full charge to the power pack after one cycle of operation. Under normal conditions, a full charge is nearly reached after 5 hours; however, the charger runs up to 19 hours to equalize cell voltages (when started on the "A" position. Older power packs require less charging time.) A full timed charge for cell equalization should take place at least once every five cycles.

The charger runs independently of the key switch. It is suggested that the key be removed to prevent unauthorized use of the tractor.

Charger Starting Positions (See Figure 18) **A**

The amount of charging the power pack needs is dependent on:

1. Accumulative number of hours of operation since the last charge.
2. Temperature of tractor storage area.
3. Age of the batteries.

The charger dial starting positions A through J vary the charging period from, very long at A, to about half as long at J, with numerous starting positions in between. The best indicator of the power pack's charging requirements is the amount of water to be added. If water must be added after one to three charges, the charger knob should be started at the next letter below that of the previous charge. The charger setting should not be varied more than one letter at a time, and two or more charges should be made before determining the need to use a new knob setting.

As the batteries age and go through more charging cycles, the charging period can be decreased.

As the temperature decreases, there is a need to, *increase* the charge time. For example, a power-pack discharge to the same level will require as much as 50 percent more charge time for full recovery at 30F than at 70F. In very cold weather, the "A" position should be used for all charging.

It is better to overcharge (charge too long) than to undercharge *as long as* there is not a high loss of water during charting. See "Power Pack Watering" instructions on page 17.

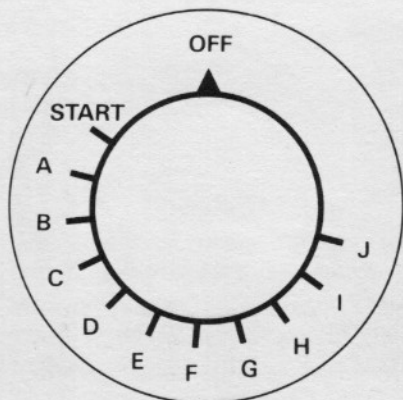


Figure 18. Charger Starting

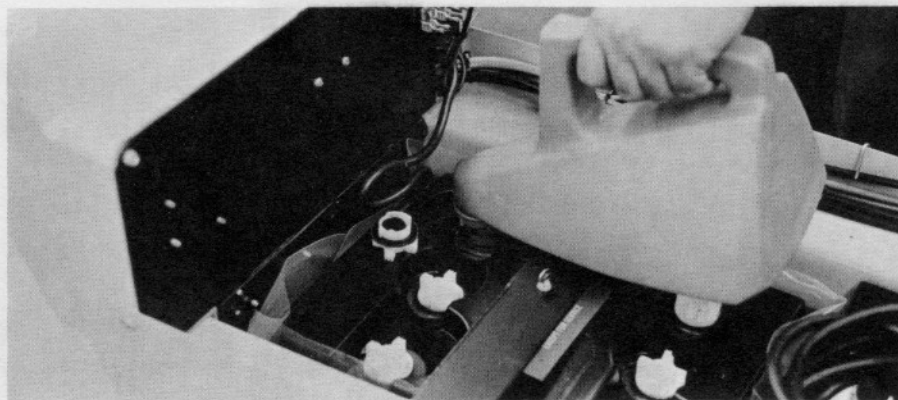


Figure 19. Power Pack Watering