

Sól Dual Voltage Buck Boost Solar Charge Controller Connection & Operation V1.04

Connection Instructions

Remove Bottom 4 cover to attach wires to terminal blocks then attach cover and flip over for mounting to a panel or wall.

*****DO NOT LOOSEN 4 SCREWS ON FRONT FACE*****

Warranty is void if the board mounting is tampered with



- 1) Solar Start up 12 volts, Night shutdown 9.5 volts. **Do NOT Over Tighten Connections. Non Oxidation grease is also a good idea to prevent corrosion over time.**
- 2) Connect wires to Apollo and then to the breaker / fuse rated at 20 Amps. Connect to Battery and Turn on Breaker / install fuse.
- 3) **Verify LCD display comes on—this indicates proper Polarity.**
- 4) Software version and serial number displays then “b12” or “b24” indicating battery voltage. Controller will enter night mode.
- 5) **Turn OFF breaker / remove fuse and then connect solar panel wires to the Apollo and to the panel.**
- 6) **LCD should start indicating proper polarity.**
- 7) After polarity has been verified turn on the breaker / install fuse and Apollo will enter DAY mode and begin charging the battery.
- 8) Re-install cover and screws. You can now mount to a panel.
- 9) Apollo must have a battery to work properly.
- 10) Multiple Charge Controller boards can be parallel output connected to increase system power. There is no limit to how many can be used. Each should have its own Fuse or Breaker.

“Hot” Flashing indicates thermal protection is active as the board is over **170 Degrees F**. Too much solar input, or too hot of ambient air around the board can cause this to occur. Soft limit occurs at 165 F and will reduce output to keep below 170 F. Error codes are described on the last page of this document.

LCD Display Information

The LCD Display scrolls through the items every 30 seconds. Title is displayed, then the number follows. Last 7 days totals display after sunset and until the next daylight. At night the CPU slows to conserve power and minimize battery drain below 0.00085 amps (850 microamps typical for 12 volts).

The LCD Display is not a high precision meter however it's designed to show relative levels so the user can determine how well the system is working at any given time. Accuracy is better at higher power levels and ranges from about 10% at 10 Watts to about 2% at 200 Watts.

Note: Totals are lost if Battery connection removed.

****IMPORTANT****
Use a Voltmeter and be certain of the Polarity **PRIOR** to connection
DO NOT GROUND solar panel wires as they **MUST remain floating. Frame can be Grounded**
Panel open circuit voltage must be high enough to start charging (>12.5 Volts VOC).
Maximum Solar power (54 volt Limit)
12 Volt output = 350 Watts STC Rating
24 Volt output = 700 Watts STC Rating
See Page 2 for Details
20 amp Output Fuse or Circuit Breaker is required to prevent a fire from abnormal operation and meet Safety Standards.

	Solar Input Voltage
	Battery Voltage
	Output Current in Amps
	Output Power in Watts
	Peak Power in Watts
	Amp Hours Today
	Board Temperature Deg. F
	Battery Detected

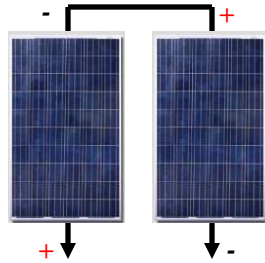
WARRANTY: DIY Solar warranties the board against defects for a period of TWO YEARS from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials or workmanship only. DIY Solar's only remedy is to repair or replace at our discretion any defective board. User must obtain an RMA by contacting us at: diysolarforu@gmail.com. User assumes all risks associated with the use of this product and agrees to hold harmless DIY Solar for U. It's up to the user to properly install and use the product. This Warranty does NOT cover misuse, neglect, or accidental damage of any kind.

Solar Panel Connection Examples

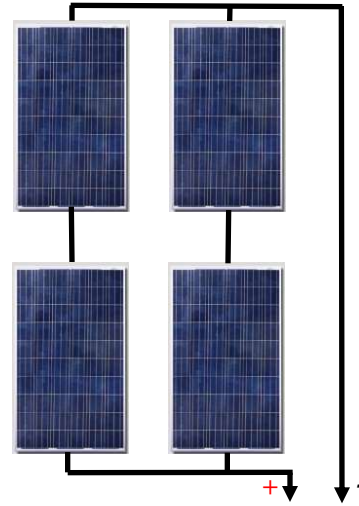
12 Volt Output



One Large Panel
36-80 Cells
Up to 350 Watts



Two Smaller 36 Cell
Panels—Matched Pair
Up to 175 Watts Each
Series Connected
Up to 350 Watts Total

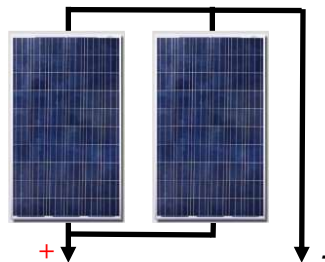


Four Small 36 cell Panels
In a series / parallel array 2 x 2
** Series Pairs Must Be Matched**
2 panels at 70 watts in series combined
with 2 panels at 100 watts in series
OR 4 panels at up to 85 Watts
Up to 350 Watts Total

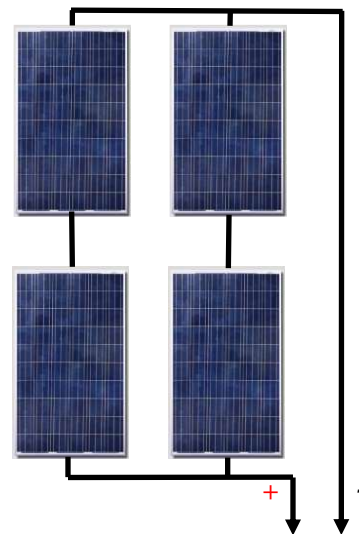
24 Volt Output (2x Power)



One Large Panel
60 to 80 Cells **
Up to 700 Watts



Two Panels—Matched
Pair 60 to 80 Cells **
Up to 350 Watts Each
Parallel Connected
Up to 700 Watts Total



Four 36 cell Panels at up to 175 Watts
each In a series / parallel array 2 x 2
Panels should be matched in type and
size. Up to 700 Watts Total

Because S6L is a Buck-Boost design any panel can be used for 12 or 24 volt batteries however maximum power is achieved with 60-80 cells for 24 volt systems. If using only 36 cells (Boost 16 volts to 28.8 volts) the input is limited to 20 amps so maximum Power is about 350 watts STC due to input current limit.

System Connection Diagram

IMPORTANT:

Do NOT Ground solar panel wires—Frame only can be tied to Earth Ground
Each Solar Input MUST be electrically Isolated. Tie the Battery (-) to Earth Ground and Solar Panel Frame to Earth Ground only.

Each Charge controller input should be connected to its own solar panel (s).

IMPORTANT:

Board contains Ceramic SMD capacitors that can crack / short circuit if too much flexing of the board occurs.

When connecting DO NOT BEND the board by using excessive downward force to prevent capacitor failure.

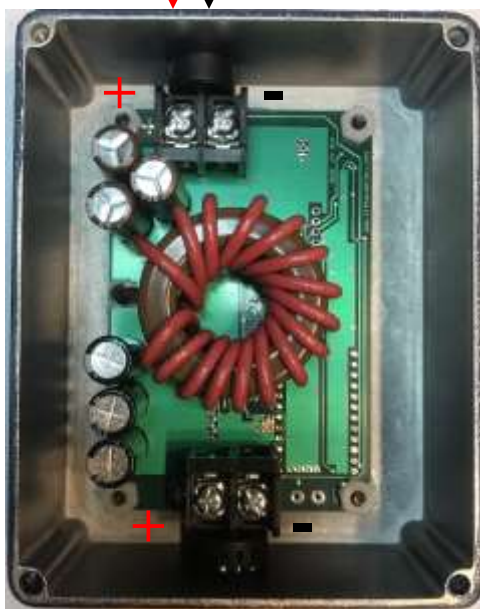
Tighten with a #2 Phillips Screwdriver

Verify Correct Polarity to prevent damage by following the procedure on Page #1

Solar Positive (+) 36 to 80 Cell Solar Panel

Solar Negative (-)

Use RF Ferrite if Transmitter is nearby



Use #12 Wire Size for minimal Power Loss. Low Voltage Landscape Lighting Wire works well.

Tin the leads with solder for best performance (Stranded) Wire

Use Non-Oxidation Grease to Prevent corrosion

Connect Additional Charge Controllers in the same manner using one circuit breaker for each. Breaker output from each connects to Battery (+) Terminal.

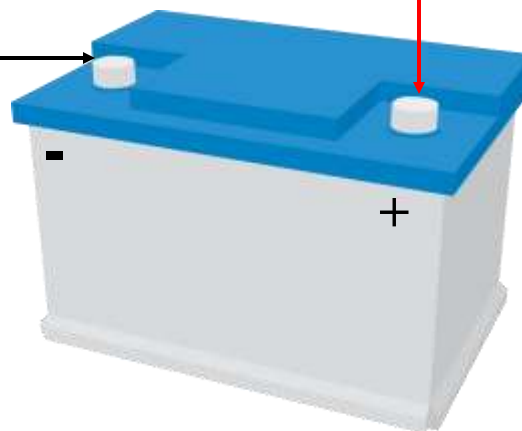
Power DC-AC Inverter if used is connected to the Battery and can be fed from a larger amperage circuit breaker.

Positive output to Breaker (+)

Use 20 Amp Circuit Breaker or Fuse

Breaker output to Battery (+)

Negative output to Battery (-)
This is System Ground (GND)



A Multiple Charger Board System could use a 100 Amp or 200 Amp Home Breaker Panel as a DC Power Distribution Box. The 100/200 Amp Main Breaker would connect to the Battery Bank (+) and the Neutral to the Battery Bank (-). Use #2 wire size for battery.

Each Charge Controller would connect to a 20 Amp Breaker. Inverter can use 2 Pole Breakers to feed their (+) Terminal. 20 to 100 Amp 2 Pole breakers sized to match inverter power with BOTH wires used. A good rule is 5 amps per 100 watts inverter power... 400 Watts = 20 Amp 2 pole.

Theory of Operation V1.04

At the heart of the DIY Solar Charge Controller is a very efficient DC-DC Power converter which transfers over 98% of the Panels energy to the system. The Power Converter is controlled by a Microprocessor which performs the Maximum Power Tracking, collects and tabulates data, and drives the LCD display. The Solar Charge controller works from below 1 Watt to 288 / 576 Watts of Output (350 / 700 Maximum Watt STC rated Solar Panel). With 24 Volt Systems use 2 same type 60-80 cell panels in parallel at up to 350 Watts STC each 700 Watts total. No Adjustments are needed as the board is fully automatic and will adapt to any panel within the specification limits. Sol V1.04 includes Automatic 12 / 24 volt Battery detection.

Our customized Maximum Power Tracking routine adjusts the power transfer about **6000 times per second** to yield maximum performance. The Buck Boost power converter has extended operation even in partial shading of the Solar Panels from shadows (Trees, Utility Poles ect.). Rapid Sunlight changes on a partly sunny day are not a problem either. The Microprocessor monitors input and output parameters while always seeking the maximum power possible. There are 2 control loops working together to get every last watt of power from the Solar Panel resulting in up to **2 TIMES** the Power that a PWM charge controller would deliver with the same Solar Panel.

Simple Cheap PWM Controllers DO NOT DO DC POWER CONVERSION.

When the solar input voltage exceeds 12 volts at sunrise the Solar Charge Controller switches from NIGHT mode to DAY mode and transfers the previous day's totals to memory. The Power Stage is turned on and Solar energy begins to charge the system battery. The LCD display cycles through the daytime parameters... Battery Voltage, Panel Voltage, Amps output, Power Output, Peak Power, Amp Hours, Board Temperature, and Battery Detected. If the system Battery is at **14.4 (28.8) volts AND the current is less than 1.5 amps** then the charger shuts off until the Battery drops to **13.5 (27.0) volts**. The LCD Display will indicate **"Bat"** **"Full"** and display the voltage and amp hours input for the current day.

After Sunset when the panel voltage drops below 9.5 volts the Power Stage is turned off and the LCD Display switches to NIGHT mode. The LCD Display cycles through the Panel Voltage, Battery Voltage, all time MAX Power (P.P.1), and the last 7 Days Amp Hour Totals. The Processor slows to keep Battery Drain to minimum.

The Solar Charge Controller is designed for many years of reliable operation using parts rated for High Temperature Operation assuring long operating life. The Board is protected from reverse battery, input short circuit, reverse power flow, over current, over temperature, and reversed Solar Panel connections. **It is NOT however protected from excessive input voltage over 60 volts** open circuit voltage. Above 54 volts "Err" then 001 will display. Do Not Connect a panel with more than 80 cells or a combination of series connected panels that exceeds 80 cells. The Solar Charge Controller will work well from 36 to 72 cells with very high performance. **36, 54, 60 and 72** cell count Solar Panels are common and will work well with the Charge Controller.

Do NOT connect a solar panel until battery polarity is verified correct by LCD operation.

Sól Buck Boost Comparison to Apollo

Comparison	Apollo	Sól
36 Cell Solar Panel	12 Volts Only	12 and 24 Volts
Shading Tolerance	Up to 2 Cells	Up to 10 Cells

60 Cell Solar Panel	12 Volt, Limited 24 Volts	12 and 24 Volts
Shading Tolerance	24 Cells @ 12V, 0 Cells @ 24V	Up to 30 Cells

72 Cell Solar Panel	12 and 24 Volts	12 and 24 Volts
Shading Tolerance	22 Cells @ 12V, 5 Cells @ 24V	Up to 48 Cells

Start Voltage	18 Volts	12 Volts
	15 V	
Minimum Operating	olts	10 Volts
Maximum Operating	50 Volts	54 Volts
Power Conversion	>98.5%	>99%
Maximum Solar STC	280 Watts / 560 Watts	350 Watts / 700 Watts
Maximum current	16 amps	20 Amps

Error Codes:

001 = Solar Panel Over 54 volts input

002 = Temperature Sensing Error out of range

003 = Current Sensing Amplifier Error

Hot Flashing indicates thermal shutdown due to excessive heat (Charger OFF)

Constant cycling thru Serial number and version indicates not enough power present to operate (No Battery and Low Solar Voltage). If your battery pack has built in over-discharge protection and it cuts off the battery this display pattern can happen until there is enough Solar Power present to operate and begin charging the battery again. "tst" will display during battery wake up and detection or if no battery is connected but solar is present.

New in Version 1.04

Now operates down to -40 Degrees F / C

Increased Power to 20 amps (350 / 700 Watts STC Solar)

Software optimizations to improve CPU performance