

What are the popular battery conditioners for a classic car?

A survey of V8 owners indicated the two most popular brands of battery conditioners are the CTEK and Accumate.



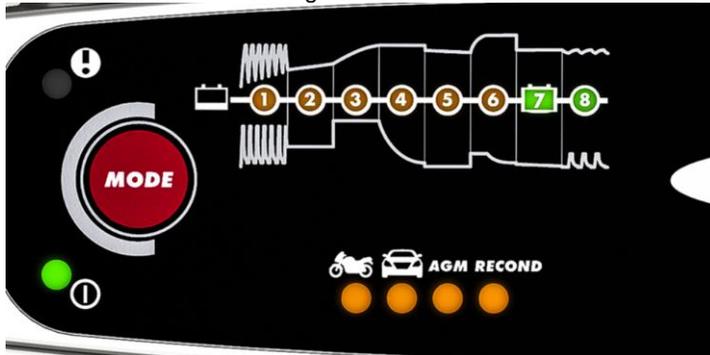
CTEK MXS 5.0 UK

It provides automatic battery charging and maintenance for vehicle and motorcycle batteries, with a reconditioning mode. The MXS 5.0 is an advanced microprocessor controlled battery charger which gives unrivalled performance for lead acid batteries from 1.2-110Ah. It comes with automatic temperature compensation built in which ensures the best charging performance, even in the most extreme conditions.

The MXS 5.0 also includes battery diagnosis to establish whether your battery can receive and retain a charge, patented automatic desulphation program, an AGM option which maximises the performance life of most Stop/Start batteries and a **special Recond mode** for reconditioning deeply discharged batteries. The MXS 5.0 uses CTEK's patented float/pulse system, which is the most efficient maintenance mode when a battery is connected for long periods.

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A useful video explains how to CTEK MXS 5.0 UK device works and what each of the neon lights mean.



[Play the video](#)

Accumate 6/12

The Accumate 6/12 is a battery optimiser designed to automatically charge and monitor batteries with no danger of over-charging regardless of time connected to the battery. Accumate is suitable for all 6V and 12V lead acid batteries from 4 to 75Amp hours, making it perfect for owners of vehicles which are not used on a daily basis like classic and sports cars. SAE Connection

The operation of Accumate 6/12 is completely automatic. It uses a 1.2A constant current charge as the main stage, while monitoring the battery voltage. When this reaches a pre-set cut off point, it then switches to an intermediate constant voltage 'float charge'. Then only when Accumate 6/12 has detected that the battery is properly charged will it switch to the final stage for correct long-term battery maintenance and indicate a green LED. If at any time Accumate detects that the battery has discharged, it will automatically revert to the constant current stage when an orange

LED is on display. It is a compact charger which has complex circuitry to safely charge batteries over long term periods.



Delivered with two interchangeable connection sets, one with clamps for bench charging, and the other with in-line protection fuse and eyelet terminals for permanent connection to the vehicle's battery to allow easy reconnection of charger when necessary. There is also a lead fitted with a cigar lighter plug which can be connected to the output side of the Accumate 6/12 so charging and monitoring by the conditioner can be done through the cigar lighter socket.

Connecting a battery conditioner to a classic car

Nic Houslip says "my RV8 has the Accumate connected with a short lead to with -ve (negative connector) attached to the Engine and the +ve (positive) to the Alternator Main terminal. This short lead has a matching rubber covered plug that connects to the Accumate (as supplied) lead. To connect the batter conditioner, I have mounted the Accumate on the wall, and the lead goes under the bonnet to reach the plug. One day I will dangle the Accumate in front of the windscreen so that I can see it when I get into the car and remember to disconnect it! I tuck the plug, with its cover closed, behind the fuel rail when it isn't in use".

Double Insulated battery conditioners

Most small electrical equipment is what is called **Double Insulated** and if you look on the name plate of an Accumate battery conditioner or on the side of a CTEK conditioner it should have the **international symbol of one square within another**. This means that the device has an outer case of non-conductive plastic and an internal construction that will ensure that any internal failure does not cause dangerous voltage to appear on the device.



"Double Insulated" – the international symbol is one square within another