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Operating Instructions



800 WATT POWER INVERTER
CPI 850

Printed in China
Part No. 480-198-P
Version A

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English



Introduction

Our Thanks to You

Thank you for purchasing the Cobra CPI 850 inverter. Properly used, this Cobra product will give you many years of reliable service.

How Your Cobra Power Inverter Works

The Cobra power inverter is an electronic product that has been designed and built to take low voltage DC (Direct Current) power from your automobile or other low voltage power supplies and convert it to standard 115 Volt AC (Alternating Current) power like the current you have in your home. This conversion process thereby allows you to use many of your household appliances and electronic products in automobiles, RVs, boats, tractors, trucks and virtually anywhere else.



Customer Assistance

Customer Assistance

Should you encounter any problems with this product, or not understand its many features, please refer to this owner's manual. If you require further assistance after reading this manual, Cobra Electronics offers the following customer assistance services:

For Assistance in the U.S.A.

Automated Help Desk English only.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week 773-889-3087 (phone).

Customer Assistance Operators English and Spanish.
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday
(except holidays) 773-889-3087 (phone).

Questions English and Spanish.
Faxes can be received at 773-622-2269 (fax).

Technical Assistance English only.
www.cobra.com (on-line: Frequently Asked Questions).
English and Spanish. productinfo@cobra.com (e-mail).

For Assistance Outside the U.S.A.

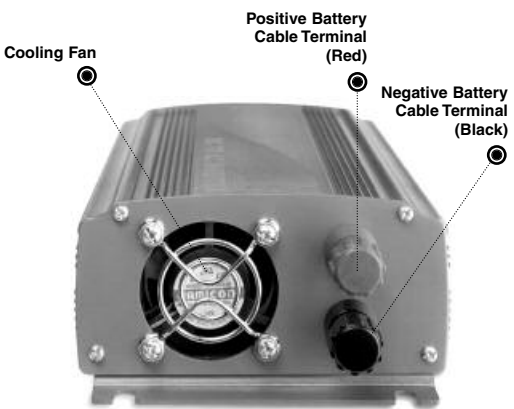
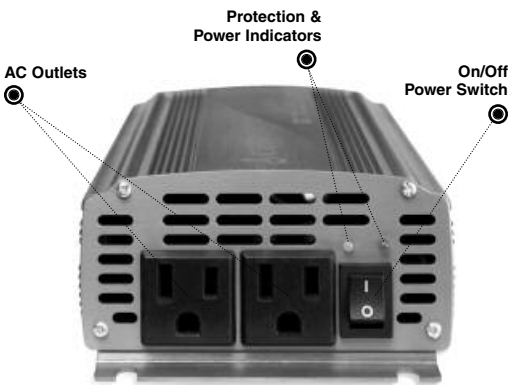
Contact Your Local Dealer

©2005 Cobra® Electronics Corporation
6500 West Cortland Street
Chicago, Illinois 60707 USA
www.cobra.com

A1 English

Features

- Two AC Receptacles
- Automatic Thermal Protection/Shutdown
- Reverse Polarity Protection
- Low Battery Alarm
- Low Battery Shutdown



Introduction

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Important Safety Information

Before installing and using your Cobra power inverter, please read these general precautions and warnings.

Caution and Warning Statements

To make the most of this inverter, it must be installed and used properly. Please read the installation and operating instructions carefully before installing and using it. Special attention must be paid to the **CAUTION** and **WARNING** statements in the manual.



CAUTION Statements specify conditions which could cause damage to the unit or other equipment.



WARNING Statements identify conditions that could result in personal injury or loss of life.

General Precautions

1. **Never install the inverter in a boat's engine compartment where gas and battery fumes are present.**
2. Do not operate the inverter if it has been dropped or damaged in any way.
3. Do not open the inverter; it contains no user-serviceable parts. Attempting to service unit could cause electrical shock.



NOTE Internal components remain charged after all power is disconnected.

4. Do not expose the inverter to rain, snow, bilge water or spray.
5. Do not obstruct the ventilation openings.
6. Do not install the inverter in zero-clearance compartment.



CAUTION This inverter should be used in **negative ground** applications only.



WARNING Power inverters contain components that can produce arcs or sparks. To prevent fire or explosion, do not install the inverter in areas or compartments containing batteries or flammable materials or in locations that require ignition-protected equipment.

WARNING To reduce the risk of fire, do not cover or obstruct the ventilation openings. Do not install inverter in zero-clearance compartment.

Warning: Wash Hands After Handling Power Cord

The power cord on this product contains lead, a chemical known in the state of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

Caution: Rechargeable Appliances

Certain chargers for small nickel cadmium batteries can be damaged if connected to the Cobra 800 watt inverter. Two types of equipment are prone to this problem:

Plug In Directly



1. Small battery-operated appliances such as flashlights, razors, and night lights that can be plugged directly into an AC receptacle to recharge.
2. Certain battery chargers for battery packs used in hand power tools. These chargers have a **WARNING** label stating that dangerous voltages are present at the battery terminals.

Dangerous Voltages



This problem does not occur with the vast majority of battery operated equipment. Most use a separate charger or transformer that is plugged into the AC receptacle and produces a low voltage output. If the label on the AC adapter or charger states that it produces a low voltage AC or DC output (less than 30 volts), the inverter will have no problem powering the adapter safely.

Power Supply



Cable



Test Load



Cobra 800 Watt Output Waveform

Some sensitive electronic equipment may not operate on a “square wave” or “modified sine wave.” This waveform is referred to as “square wave” or “modified sine wave.” It is a stepped waveform designed to have characteristics similar to the sine wave shape of a pure sine wave. This waveform of this nature is suitable for most gear and switching power suppliers (such as power supply, transformers and motors).

Checklist Before Installation

Connect Power Source

Make sure you have basic information about the power source to check its performance before installation.

Be sure to have On Hand:

• A power source (such as a vehicle battery).

The power source must provide between 11 and 15 volts DC and be able to supply enough current to run the test load. As a rough guide, divide the wattage of the test load by 10 to get the current (in amperes) the power source must deliver.

• The provided two foot direct-to-battery 12 gauge cable.

Only use the cable provided with your inverter.

• A test load that can be plugged into the AC receptacle on the inverter for short term testing at a low power level.

To check your inverter's performance before installation:

1. Turn the inverter **off** (see page 11 for details). If the power source is a DC power supply, switch it **off** as well.
2. Connect cables to power input terminals (see page 7 for details).
3. Connect cables to power source (see page 7 for details).
4. Check to make sure all connections are secure.
5. Turn the inverter **on**. If the power source is a DC power supply, switch it **on** first.
6. Plug in the test load.

The inverter should supply power to the load. If the inverter is not working properly, refer to the troubleshooting guide on page 14 or power and protection indicators section on page 12.



Installation Requirements

The inverter must be installed in an area that meets all of the following requirements:



C. **Ventilation**
Allow at least one inch (three cm) of clearance around the inverter for proper airflow. Make sure that ventilation openings on the ends of the unit are not obstructed.



length of cable required to connect the inverter to the battery. It is better and cheaper to run longer AC wires than longer DC wires (cables).

CAUTION To avoid fire, do not cover or obstruct ventilation openings. Do not install inverter in a zero-clearance compartment. Overheating may result.

CAUTION The inverter must only be connected to batteries with a nominal output voltage of 12 volts. It will not work with a 6 volt battery, and will be damaged if it is connected to a 16 volt battery.

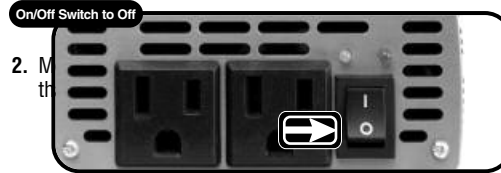
WARNING This unit contains components which can produce arcs or sparks. To prevent fire or explosion, do not install in compartments containing a battery or flammable materials, or in a location

which requires ignition protected equipment.

Mounting

To mount your inverter:

1. Place the inverter on a flat surface with the mounting bracket against the mounting surface.



The inverter can be mounted horizontally or vertically.



Connecting Cables

Power wire and wiring are very important to the performance of the inverter. Because the inverter has a low voltage, high current input, low resistance wiring is essential between the battery and inverter. This is so it can deliver the maximum amount of energy to the load.

Only use the cables provided with your power inverter.

To connect the cables between the inverter and the battery:

1. Turn the **On/Off Switch** on the inverter to the **off** position. If the power source is a DC power supply, **switch it off** as well.

Connect Power Source



2. Connect cable to the **Power Input Terminals** on right side panel of the inverter. The red terminal is positive (+) and the black terminal is negative (-). Insert the ends of the cables onto the terminals and tighten the screws to clamp the cables safely.



3. Connect cable to the power source:

- a. Connect the cable from the **Negative (Black) Terminal** of inverter to the **Negative Terminal** of the power source. Make a secure connection.
- b. Connect the cable from the **Positive (Red) Terminal** of the inverter to the **Positive Terminal** of the power source (the battery's main fuse or the battery selector switch, if you are using one). Make a secure connection.

You might observe a spark when you make this connection since current can flow to charge capacitors in the inverter.

All power connections to your Cobra inverter must be **Positive to Positive** and **Negative to Negative**.

CAUTION Do not connect the inverter and another AC source (such as a generator or utility power) to the AC wiring at the same time. The inverter will be damaged if its output is connected to AC voltage from another source. Damage can even occur if the inverter is switched **off**.



Laptop
50 watts x 2 hours
= 100 watt-hours



TV/VCR (up to 25")
115 watts x 3 hours
= 345 watt-hours



Blender
300 watts x 15 minutes
= 75 watt-hours

CAUTION Do not connect the inverter to an AC

branch circuit that has high-power consumption loads. It will not operate electric heaters, air conditioners, stoves, and other electrical appliances that consume more than 800 watts.



These connectors result in excessive heat and may cause over heated wires and insulation.





CAUTION Reverse polarity connections (positive to negative) will blow internal fuses in the inverter and may permanently damage the unit. Such damage is not covered by the warranty.

CAUTION Remove any jewelry (watch, ring, etc.). Be careful not to short circuit the battery with any metallic object (wrench, etc.).

WARNING 115 volt AC power is potentially lethal. Do not work on AC wiring when it is connected to the inverter (even if it is switched off) unless the DC power source is physically disconnected from the inverter. Also, do not work on AC wiring if it is connected to another AC power source such as a generator or the utility line.

WARNING You may observe a spark when making the connection because current can flow to charge the capacitors in the inverter. **Do not make this connection in the presence of flammable fumes.** Explosion or fire may result. Thoroughly ventilate the battery compartment before making this connection.



Power Consumption

For each piece of equipment you will be operating from the inverter, you must determine the battery's **reserve capacity** (how long the battery can deliver a specific amount of current – in automotive batteries, usually 25 amperes) or **ampere-hour capacity** (a measure of how many amperes a battery can deliver for a specified length of time).

Example – Reserve capacity: a battery with a reserve capacity of 180 minutes can deliver 25 amperes for 180 minutes before it is completely discharged.

Example – Ampere-hour capacity: a battery with an ampere-hour capacity of 100 ampere-hours can deliver 5 amperes for 20 hours before it is completely discharged.

To determine the battery ampere-hour capacity you require:

1. Determine how many watts each piece of equipment consumes. This can normally be found on the product label. If only the current draw is given, multiply the current draw by 115 to get the watt consumption.
2. Estimate the time (in hours) that each piece of equipment will be running between battery charging cycles.
3. Calculate the total watt-hours of energy consumption (power x operating time) using the average power consumption and the total estimated running time (in hours). **Power x Operating Time = Watt-Hours.**
4. Divide the watt-hours by 10 to determine how many power supply's (12 volt) ampere-hours will be consumed.



Troubleshooting Guide

Problem/Symptom	Possible Causes	Solution
Low output voltage	Overload	Reduce the load.
No output voltage	Low input voltage	Recharge battery. Check connections and cable.
No output voltage after prolonged use	Thermal shutdown	Allow inverter to cool off. Reduce load, continuous operation input current required. Improve ventilation; Make sure ventilation openings in the inverter are not obstructed. Reduce ambient temperature.
No output voltage, "Protect" indicator lighted	High input voltage	Make sure the inverter is connected to 12V battery. Check regulation of charging system.
No output voltage	Short circuit	Check load for proper operation.
No output voltage	Inverter switched off	Turn inverter on .
	No power to inverter	Check wiring to inverter.
	Reverse DC polarity	Observe correct polarity.
Low battery alarm on all the time	Poor DC wiring	Check connections.
	Poor battery condition	Make sure battery is fully charged.



Specifications

Continuous output power (1 hour)	800W
Surge rating (0.1 second)	1600W
Peak efficiency (12V – 1/2 load)	> 88%
Efficiency (full load, 12V)	> 83%
No load current draw	< 0.5A (12.6V)
Output waveform (resistive load)	Modified sine wave
Output frequency	58HZ – 62HZ
Output voltage	109V – 120V
Input voltage	10.4VDC – 14.4VDC
Alarm voltage (unload)	10.2V – 10.8V
Shutdown voltage (unload)	9.2V – 9.8V
Operating temperature range	0°C – 40°C (32°F – 104°F)
Storage temperature range	-40°C – 85°C (-40°F – 185°F)
Protection	Overload, short-circuit, overtemp, reverse polarity, under/over voltage

Notes

All protection is automatically recovered.

To protect the battery, if the unit needs to be restarted after low voltage protection, the voltage of DC input should be above 12V.

To extend the life of the fan, it will stop when there is no load. The speed of the fan increases as the load increases.

The unit is completely insulated in input and output for added safety.

Limited Two-Year Warranty

For Products Purchased in the U.S.A.

Cobra Electronics Corporation warrants that its Cobra power inverter, and the component parts thereof, will be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of two years from the date of first consumer purchase. This warranty may be enforced by the first consumer purchaser, provided that the product is utilized within the U.S.A.

Cobra will, without charge, repair or replace, at its option, defective power inverters, products or component parts upon delivery to the Cobra Factory Service department, accompanied by proof of the date of first consumer purchase, such as a duplicated copy of a sales receipt.

You must pay any initial shipping charges required to ship the product for warranty service, but the return charges will be at Cobra's expense, if the product is repaired or replaced under warranty. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state.

Exclusions: This limited warranty does not apply.

1. To any product damaged by accident.
2. In the event of misuse or abuse of the product or as a result of unauthorized alterations or repairs.
3. If the serial number has been altered, defaced, or removed.
4. If the owner of the product resides outside the U.S.A.

All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited in duration to the length of this warranty. Cobra shall not be liable for any incidental, consequential or other damages; including, without limitation, to damages resulting from loss of use or cost of installation.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages; so the above limitations may not apply to you.

For Products Purchased Outside the U.S.A.

Please contact your local dealer for warranty information.

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