

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN BUYING A WS500

## WAKESPEED BUYING GUIDE



Interested in purchasing a Wakespeed WS500? Please refer to this guide for a starting point on some important considerations around if this product is the right fit for your needs, along with some information on additional components that may be required.

**DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO OUR TECHNICAL  
SALES TEAM WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE**

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# WAKESPEED™

POWERED BY **dragonfly**  
ENERGY



## SELECTING A HARNESS:

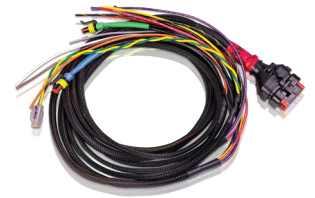
### IS THIS A MARINE OR AN RV/AUTOMOTIVE INSTALLATION?

The two applications aren't much different in terms of outcome, but there are a few elements that should be considered — most notably, the type of wiring harness used.



### WHICH HARNESS IS BEST FOR MY NEEDS?

Depending on the application, if the regulator is being installed close to the alternator, the standard harness (60 inches in length) is probably the best choice, even if the field and stator wires need to be extended beyond the standard harness length.



If your application is an RV or vehicle where the regulator is installed up to twenty or more feet from the alternator, the VAN harness will provide an easier installation

### STANDARD WIRING HARNESS

In marine environments, the regulator is usually installed closer to the alternator than the batteries or equal distance between the two. Wakespeed offers a standard wiring harness that's used in most marine installations.

### VAN WIRING HARNESS

In the majority of RV or trucking applications, the Wakespeed regulator is installed near the house batteries, rather than under the hood of the vehicle. A special regulator wiring harness (WS500-PH/VAN) has been developed for these applications, with an extended leg that's intended to reach the alternator.

### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are two types of excitation used to control alternator output:

- A-type (aka N-type excitation)
- B-type (aka P-type excitation)

The type of regulation that the WS500 delivers is controlled by the wiring harness used. The vast majority of installations are going to use the Wakespeed P-type harness (WS500-PH/CAN). Be sure to determine your alternator's excitation polarity. If your alternator is set up for positive excitation, the standard P-type harness or P-type VAN harness will work. If the alternator is set up for N-type excitation, you might consider having a qualified shop modify the alternator for P-type excitation, or contact Dragonfly Energy for other options.

## WHAT TYPE OF ALTERNATOR DO I HAVE?

Alternators are essentially broken into two categories; internally regulated and externally regulated. The WS500 regulator is engineered to work with alternators that are manufactured or modified to be externally regulated. **DO NOT try to use the WS500 with an internally regulated alternator.** If you are not sure of the alternator you're using, have it inspected and modified for external P-type regulation at a qualified marine or auto electric shop. Contact Dragonfly Energy for other options.



## SINGLE & DUAL ALTERNATOR APPLICATIONS:

While multiple-alternators are more common in marine applications, an increasing number of high energy RV and trucking systems rely on multiple alternators to supply increased output to large battery systems. The WS500 can be used to control multiple alternators on a single engine by splitting the field output between alternators, or in the case of a multi-engine installation found in a marine environment, by using two or more WS500 regulators — connected to each other via CANbus — to support a large, single battery bank.



## ARE CAN CROSS OVER CABLES NEEDED?

The CAN Cross Over Cables are used when going from your Wakespeed WS500 to a Victron GX unit, most commonly, the Cerbo GX. There are a few different cable options that are dependent on your usage.

- The **Victron RJ45 cross over cable** is used to connect To the Victron Cerboscreen.
- The **Marine NMEA2000 adapter (aka M12)** is used in connection to additional monitoring solutions from Victron and other suppliers.
- The **Lithionics Y cable (with DTM terminator)** is used as a Connection to a Lithionics BMS.

Contact Dragonfly Energy for other options.

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## DO I NEED A BATTERY TEMPERATURE SENSOR?

Battery temperature sensing is an important part of smart regulation. Battery temperature sensors should be used in any application where battery temperature information is not being supplied to the regulator via CANbus communication.



## DO YOU NEED TO PURCHASE A CURRENT SHUNT?

Shunts ARE recommended, as they measure the current coming in from the alternator. The specific shunt needed would be determined on a case to case basis, with products from Victron and Deltec being the most common.



## RECOMMENDED PACKAGES BASED ON APPLICATION:

### DRYPOWER BATTERIES / DROP-IN LITHIUM

STANDARD	W/ VICTRON CERBO	TWIN ENGINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ WS to VE Crossover Cable w/data terminator</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator (2)</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness* (2)</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor (2)</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt (1)</li> </ul>
<p><i>*For Van applications (Sprinter/Promaster/Transit), we recommend using the WS500/PH-VAN Van Wiring Harness</i></p>		

### VICTRON SMART LITHIUM

W/ VE BUS BMS	W/ VE BUS BMS/CERBO	W/ LYNX BMS/CERBO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ WS to VE Crossover Cable w/data terminator</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS to VE Crossover Cable w/data terminator</li> </ul>
<p><i>*For Van applications (Sprinter/Promaster/Transit), we recommend using the WS500/PH-VAN Van Wiring Harness</i></p>		

### DRYPOWER LEAD ACID BATTERIES

STANDARD	W/ VICTRON CERBO	TWIN ENGINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness*</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor</li> <li>▪ WS to VE Crossover Cable w/data terminator</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WS500 Alternator Regulator (2)</li> <li>▪ WS500/PH-CAN Wiring Harness (2)</li> <li>▪ WS500/BT 10' Battery Temperature Sensor (2)</li> <li>▪ 500A/50mV Current Shunt (1)</li> </ul>
<p><i>*For Van applications (Sprinter/Promaster/Transit), we recommend using the WS500/PH-VAN Van Wiring Harness</i></p>		

# REFER TO THE WAKESPEED WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS, DOCUMENTATION AND TRAINING RESOURCES.



**Configuration Utility Notes**

**Battle Born LiFePO4 Batteries**

This includes the use of an alternator equipped with advanced diodes, battery protection diodes, or a mitigation to protect the alternator and other sensitive electronics from potential battery disconnects. It also includes the use of an alternator equipped with advanced diodes, battery protection diodes, or a mitigation to protect the alternator and other sensitive electronics from potential battery disconnects. Charge control for your batteries is critical to prevent overcharging and voltage spikes caused by battery disconnected events.

Developed in conjunction with the Dragonfly/Battle Born engineering team, these instructions and the accompanying wiring diagram represent a "best practice" approach to charging Battle Born drop-in LiFePO4 batteries.


**Required Components:**

- WS500 Alternator Regulator - updated to the current firmware revision and configured with the Battleborn Batteries charging profile
- WS500 Wiring Harness, such as the WS500/PH or WS500/NH
- WS500/ST Battery Temperature Sensor
- 500A/500V Current Shunt

In LiFePO4 systems where CANbus communication is not available, the best practice for alternator/regulator control is to provide the regulator with the ability to monitor ambient battery temperature and current into and out of the batteries. By closely monitoring battery temperature and the charge rate into the batteries, the WS500 can charge more safely by staying within the the Battleborn battery's recommended C-rate and working temperature range.

When installing the configuration profile for your batteries, be sure to set the proper battery capacity multiplier to ensure that the regulator will be able to accurately monitor charging based on the overall capacity of the batteries being charged. See the Configuration Utility User's Guide for instructions when modifying the configuration profile.

In order to safely monitor charging voltage, the regulator's power and voltage sense wires (red and red/yellow trace) must be connected in a location that's always on alternator side of any switches or fuses.



Battle Born Configuration Data Points	
Alternator Temperature Setpoint	100°C
Default Battery Capacity Multiplier	800ah * 0.8
Engine Warning Delay	10 Sec.
Bulk Voltage Target	14.4V (Std. 12V system)
Floater Voltage Target	13.8 (Std. 12V system)
Maximum Charge Rate	1.5C
Hard Temperature Limits (High / Low)	+45°C / -10°C
Reduced (0.5C) Charge Rates (High / Low)	40°C to 45°C / 0°C to 5°C

**INSTALLATION NOTES**

If a single current shunt is required for best sensing, and can be installed on the positive or negative cables between the alternator and the battery. If not, the positive cable, current shunt, and wires should be under 20'. All the Battleborn battery configuration settings are detailed in the Battleborn Configuration Utility User's Guide.

Very temperature sensing is required in Battleborn and other drop-in LiFePO4 batteries to ensure proper response to high temperature charging conditions.

A battery temperature sensing is required for safe operation. Sensor can be mounted on alternator case lead or ground post. Consult with alternator manufacturer for recommendations.