

TESTING A DYNAMO/GENERATOR

by Dave DuBois

Double-check the generator/dynamo - once correctly polarized - by disconnecting the wires from its terminals, connecting the two terminals together and connecting a multimeter, set to the 50 volt scale, between the two jumpered terminals to ground (*note: for best results use an analog meter not a digital meter*). Start the engine – DON'T rev it!! - just slowly increase the revs, watching the voltmeter. It should get to 20v by the time you get to 1000 rpm. DON'T exceed 20v. If the voltage stops increasing before reaching 20v, the generator needs repair. If the generator checks out reconnect the wires to the dynamo. Connect the multimeter between D terminal of the regulator (brown/yellow wire) and ground, again start up and slowly increase the revs watching the voltmeter. The voltage should rise then stabilize at about 14.5v, if it goes higher again don't let it go over 20v. If it stabilizes at 14.5v it is charging OK. If the D terminal shows only about 1v there is a disconnection in either the brown/yellow or the brown/green between dynamo and control box, or a fault inside the regulator.