

Batteries in parallel

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Items once considered luxuries when travelling are now must-haves... coffee machines, sound systems, large screen TVs, air conditioning, electric heating, hair driers, microwave ovens, and so on.

Price is a rough guide here. Generally speaking, cheap lithium batteries are less likely to be suitable for parallel connection than more expensive ones. But not always... check with the manufacturer first.

If you have two older batteries and want to connect them in parallel, contact the manufacturer. Ask them what they recommend. They'll most likely say you can't connect them in parallel... or you can, but they'll fail quickly.

If you have two batteries in parallel, it probably won't matter a great deal... assuming the cables connecting the batteries are short. But with six or eight batteries in a parallel string? The current flow to and from the last battery will be way less than for the first battery.

To make matters worse, if you have multiple batteries in parallel then it's likely you're running some seriously power-hungry devices. So the first battery is going to get smashed every time you use one of these devices.

In simple terms, when you have a mix of batteries at different stages of their lives you'll confuse the charging device. It will either overcharge the older batteries or undercharge the new battery.

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