

Mppt charge controller reviews

I built a custom testing setup and tested their ease of use, build quality, and power output. I also researched their specs and spent time using their mobile apps to monitor my system and create custom charging profiles.

Note: Most of the charge controllers I tested offer models with different charge current ratings, max PV voltages, and/or compatible battery voltages. So if you see one on this list you like, but it isn't compatible with your system, just search for the other available models and you'll probably find one that is.

Bluetooth is built in to all the models in the Victron SmartSolar MPPT product line. Once the Victron is installed, you can use the free VictronConnect mobile app to monitor and customize your system.

The Victron was the only MPPT I tested with Bluetooth built in. All the other charge controllers in this review make you buy a \$30-40 Bluetooth module for that feature. That helps justify the Victron's price a bit.

The VictronConnect app has a lot of features. It can be a little overwhelming at first. But, once you learn your way around it, it can be quite powerful. You can use one of the many battery presets or, for advanced users, easily create and save custom charging profiles.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Victron makes all sorts of accessories – sensors and shunts and the like – that can pair with the app as well and communicate with your controller to customize and optimize your system. It's a solar nerd's playground.

I also performed a power output test and the Victron placed first – by a hair. I wouldn't put too much stock in these results because of the variables I couldn't control (e.g. panel temperature, fluctuations in solar irradiance), but it was nice to see a first place finish from a top-of-the-line MPPT.

The Victron's wire terminals are passable, but nothing to write home about. The screws felt high quality, but the terminals themselves were shallow and a little too close together for my taste.

Otherwise, the build quality of the Victron felt solid. The case and heat sink seem durable. It was also the smallest and lightest controller I tested, if that's an important factor in your system.

But Victron has a huge product lineup and sells SmartSolar controllers with a wide range of PV voltages (75-250V) and current ratings (10-100A). So if the model I've tested is too much or too little for your purposes, you can upgrade or downgrade accordingly.

The Renogy app is good, but I found it a little less feature-rich than Victron's. For many users it will



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have everything you need. I suspect advanced users may want a little more customization, though.

The screen on the Rover 40A displays nearly every system spec I could hope for. It's also easy to use it to select your battery type, edit load settings, and create custom charging profiles.

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