# *Electric Vehicle Troubleshooting* & *Repair*

Automotive Mechanic Training

#### Table of Contents

Drive System Components	1
Power Control Unit (PCU)	3
Motor	5

Interface Junction Box	6
61 Pin Interface	
State of Charge Gauge	11
Main Battery Pack	
System Tie-in	14
Drive System Wiring Diagrams	17
Cooling System	
Safety Precautions	
Starting the Vehicle	
Charging the Vehicle	
Maintenance Procedures	
Parts Numbers	

Diagram

The diagram below shows an overview of the system components.



System Components

PCU Purpose	The purpose of the power control unit (PCU) is to:
	• Converts direct current into vector controlled alternating current signal which controls the vehicles speed and direction
	Provides accessory power
	Charges accessory battery
	• Charges battery pack (via integral charger)
PCU Components	The PCU contains the following components:
	• Power inverter (50-kilowatt, three-phase AC output)
	• DC/DC Converter (Accessory power supply)
	• Integral charger
	The <i>power inverter</i> converts high voltage DC into three-phase AC power for the motor.
	The DC/DC <i>converter</i> provides a charge for the 12 volt auxiliary battery and also provides accessory power when the vehicle Vs

motoring or charging. *The integral charger* charges the vehicle's battery pack and is compatible with 1101220 VC single-phase 20 amp service.

# MOUNTING HOLES (6) JI 3 PHASE AC OUTPUT CONNECTOR J2 HIGH VOLTAGE DC NPUT CONNECTOR S MOTOR ENCODER INPUT CONNECTOR COOLANT INLET/OUTLET HILETROUTLET HILETROUTLET JS INTEGRAL CHARGER INPUT CONNECTOR

PCU Diagram

The diagram below shows the detail of the PCU connections.

**Power Control Unit** 

MotorThe motor is a three-phase AC induction traction motor. The<br/>traction motor can be coupled to a standard transmission that is fixed<br/>in second gear. The motor is electronically tuned to the output of the<br/>power inverter of the PCU, increasing the power transfer to the road.

Attached to the motor for control are the:

- Motor encoder
- Motor encoder cable

The *motor encoder*, located in the motor housing, monitors the rotation of the motor spindle. The encoder translates the rotation of the motor spindle into electrical impulses and is relayed through the motor encoder cable to the PCU. Then the PCU calculates the motor speed from electrical impulses.

The 5 volt *motor encoder cable* carries motor speed information and motor temperature information to the PCU. The temperature signal voltage is between 0 and 5 volts and is in direct relationship to the temperature of the motor.



Motor

Overview	The interface junction box is the communications medium between the vehicle and the PCU. The wires from the terminal blocks inside the interface junction box connect to the PCU through the J4 connector.	
	It is also used for the computer connection when computer diagnostics are used. (it uses a nine pin RS32 computer interface.)	
Diagram	Refer to the fold-out wiring diagram included in this section for a layout if the components of the interface junction box.	

Diagram

The diagram below shows a close up of the pin connections from the interface junction box and the PCU.



61 Pin Connector

Explanation	The junction box contains:	
	• 12 volt grounding block (grounds electronics in the box)	
	• 12 volt terminal block (provides 12 volts to the relays and any other necessary feeds)	
	• Four relays (water pump, fan, reverse lights, and ignition)	
	• State of charge and temperature interface (provides information to the dash)	
	• PRND2L interface (tells what gear the vehicle is in)	
	• 24 terminal blocks (send and receive information - see list below for explanation.	
	Terminal Block Explanations	
	1 . <i>Key on</i> - senses if the key is on	
	25. PRND2L - indicates what gear the vehicle is in	
	6. CP (option) Receives information from the Charge port assembly - indicating connection present (CP)	
	7. <i>Batt Soc</i> - receives battery charge information from the SOC (State of Charge) Interface	
	8. <i>Temp</i> - receives temperature information from the engine coolant temperature (ECT) interface	

9. *Ready* - sends ready signal to the dash indicating the vehicle is ready to drive

Explanation	Terminal Block Explanations (continued)		
	10.	<i>Charge complete</i> - sends charging signal to the dash when charging is complete (blinking while charging and solid when done)	
	11.	Fault - sends fault signal to the dash	
	12.	Brake Ped (Wiper) - variable resistance output from the brake pedal	
	13.	<i>Regen</i> - (limit) - not used at this time (regen limit is now pre-set in the PCU)	
	14.	Cooling - turns on the water pump when charging or driving	
	15.	<i>Fan</i> - turns on the fan when the PCU senses over temperature of the PCU or motor	
	16.	Agnd - used as a grounding point	
	17.	<i>Dsp Ser Out</i> - digital signal processor serial output output connector from the interface junction box and the laptop computer	
	18.	<i>Dsp Ser In</i> - digital signal processor serial input input connector the laptop computer to the interface .junction box	
	19.	P 12v Bat - internal 12 volt supply for the PCU	
	20.	<i>Pot</i> +5 <i>Pwr</i> - 5 volt power supply for the accelerator pots	
	21.	Pot Rtn - return circuit from the accelerator pot	
	22.	<i>Accel 0</i> - variable resistance output from one of two accelerator pots	
	23.	<i>Acel I</i> - variable resistance output from the other accelerator_pot	

# **61 Pin Interface**

#### Overview

The chart below shows the connection between the 61 PCU connections and the 23 interface junction connections.

61 Pin Letter	Terminal	Wire Color	Circuit
A	1	Orange	Key on 12 Volt
в	2	Blue/Red	PRNDL A
с	3	Green/White	PRNDL B
D	4	White	PRNDL C
E	5	Green	PRNDL P
к •к	6 16	Orange/Red	Charge Port *No Charge Port
Р	16	Wht/Grn/Brn	Mstr-Disc
R	7	Red/Black	Soc
s	8	Red/Green	Temperature
v	9	Wht/Red/Blk	Ready
w	10	Wht/Red/Org	Charge Complete
Y	11	Wht/Brn/Blue	Fault
BB	12	Org/Blk/Wht	Regen Pot
сс	13	Red/Blk/Grn	Brake Limit Switch
EE	Loop to FF	Blue/Org/Wht	Aux Lockout
FF	Loop to EE	Org/Blk/Grn	Aux Lockout
d	14	Blue	Water Pump
e	15	Blue/White	Fan
1	16	Black	Ground
1	16	Blk/Red/Wht	Ground
k	16	Blk/Red/Grn	Ground
m	16	Bik/Org/Wht	Ground
n	17	White/Black	Dsp-Ser-Out
9	18	White/Red	Dsp-Ser-In
v	19	Red	Batt 12 V
w	20	Red/White	Pot 5V
x	21	Black/White	Pot 5V RTN
у	22	Orange/Black	Accel 0
z	23	Orange/Green	Accel 1

# State of Charge Gauge

Overview	The state of charge gauge indicate the voltage of the main battery pack. The state of charge is powered by the PCU.
Explanation	Positive voltage is sent from Pin R of the 61 Pin PCU connector to Pin 7 of the interface junction box. This voltage ranges from 0.7 volts DC (empty) to 3.5 volts DC (full). This voltage is controlled by a counter in the PCU which ranges from 0 to 29,490. (The counter can be checked in DOLCOM.)

The voltage is then amplified to match the original equipment of the manufacturer.



# **Battery Pack**

Overview	The battery pack is used power the vehicle. It is the vehicle's fuel supply.
Explanation	The battery pack contains fifty-two 12 volt batteries which are wired in two parallel strings each containing 26 batteries in series. The total nominal voltage is 312. The total usable energy capacity is approximately 18 Kwh.
	The most positive point of each string of batteries is at the main contractor and the most negative point (common negative) of the battery back is at the 300 amp fuse.
Diagrams	Refer to the following pages for a diagram of the top and bottom layers of batteries. There is also a side view diagram.

#### **Battery Pack**

**Components** The main battery pack contains the following components:

#### Main Switch

The main switch separates each series string between battery 1 0 and 1 1 of each string of 26 batteries. (Separates the top stack from the bottom stack.)

#### Fuses

The main battery pack contains the following fuses:

- 300 amp fuse connected to the common battery negative
- Four 200 amp fuses one in the upper an lower levels of each series string.
- 10 amp pre-charge fuse
- 15 amp heater fuse

#### Relays

The main battery pack contains the following relays-.

- Two main contactors (relays) connected to the most battery positive of each string
- Auxiliary relay which energizes the two main contactors via a signal from the PCU
- Heater relay attached to the 15 amp heater fuse

#### System Tie-in

**Overview** The diagram below shows how the components tie-in. In addition to the Power Control Unit and Motor, the system also contains the main battery pack and is controlled by driver input. An explanation of each component is on the following page.

**Diagram** The diagram below shows the functional tie-in of all the system components.





## System Tie-In

#### Components Motor

The motor connects directly to the transmission differential. It interfaces with the:

- spline differential
- cooling system
- encoder cable assembly to the PCU

#### Power Control Unit (PCU)

The PCU is mounted above the motor in the engine compartment. It interfaces with the:

- 12-vdc accessory system
- driver controls (accelerator pedal and instrumentation)
- inductive charge port
- 110/220 volt AC charging system
- • battery pack main contacts
- cooling system

#### System Tie-in

# **Components** (continued)

#### **Battety Pack**

The battery pack provides drive power to the PCU. (265 to 370 volts DC, maximum 220 amperes.)

#### **DCI DC Converter**

The DC/DC converter provides +12 volts DC accessory power for the instrumentation, headlights, tail lights, and standard accessories and charges the 12 volt auxiliary battery..

#### Integral (Conductive) Charging System

The integral charger within the PCU charges the main battery pack.

#### Inductive Charging System

The inductive charging system contains three on-board com ponents:

- charge port inlet for the off-board charger paddle (converts high frequency AC power from the paddle to DC power for the main battery pack)
- charge controller computer device that monitors and controls inductive charging
- filter/current sense senses and filters DC current before it goes to the main battery pack

#### Driver Controls

The driver controls the operation of the system through:

- key position
- accelerator and brake position
- mode selection (forward and reverse drive and charge)

#### **Drive System Wiring Diagram**

**Overview** To understand how the drive system operates, you will need to be able to interpret the wiring diagram.

Diagram The diagram below shows the wiring detail of the drive system.

> Note: The PCU is sealed and you will not be working inside it, but you should have an understanding of how it is wired.





## **Cooling System**

Overview The cooling system cools the motor and the electronic components inside the inverter. When the coolant temperature reaches 1 1 5' F the radiator fan will turn on. The system will shut down if the temperature increases to a temperature above 1500 F.

The system contains the following components:

- Radiator and Fan
- Pump (12 volt)
- ·Motor
- ·Inverter

# **Explanation** The pump moves the coolant (50/50 solution of water and ethylene glycol based anti-freeze) at a flow rate of 2 gpm. It pumps the coolant from the bottom of the radiator, through the motor and the cold plate on the bottom of the inverter and back to the top of the radiator. The pump will operate during charging and driving, but not during trickle charge mode or before the accelerator pedal is depressed in drive mode.

Cooling System (continued)

**Diagram** The diagram below shows the relationship of the cooling system components.



Cooling System Components

# Safety

Overview	<ul> <li>When performing maintenance on electric vehicles it is extremely important to follow all safety precautions. Since the vehicles are powered with two parallel strings of twenty-six 12 volt batteries, the vehicles have nominal voltage of 312 volts. Severe injury or death could result in an electrical shock.</li> <li>When working on electric vehicles, remove all rings, metal watches, metal bracelets or loose necklaces to avoid shock.</li> <li>All clothing worn must be 1 00% natural fiber (cotton, wool,</li> </ul>
	etc.).
Precautions	Follow the safety precautions as listed below when working on electric vehicles.
	1. Turn the key switch and the main battery pack switch to the OFF position.
	2. Disconnect the negative auxiliary battery cable when:
	• Removing or installing any electrical unit
	• Tools or equipment could easily come in contact with "live" exposed electrical terminals
	General Safety Pracdces
	• Always cover up other batteries when removing a battery. Use rubber mats (without magnets), plexiglass, cardboard or wood
	• Do not leave metal tools around the battery packs - they can easily conduct electricity

• Loose terminals can damage the battery (the loose terminals act as a resister and the heat will cause damage)

- Remove the copper bus bars when isolating a battery to
- reduce the voltage
- Label all bad batteries when they are removed
- When reinstalling the battery connectors, replace all lock washers and install the fuse part of the connector first
- Do not steam clean or wash under the hood. The heat and water will damage the electrical components
- When working with the main battery pack or the auxiliary battery wear chemical goggles and face shields
- Turn off the main battery switch before you disconnect any cables, connectors or components on the vehicle. The main switch should also be turned off whenever removing the main battery pack cover
- When removing cables within the battery pack, tape exposed and loose ends with electrical tape
- When taking meter readings, be sure not to touch the exposed metal parts of the test leads.

# Starting the Vehicle

**Overview** Starting an electric vehicle is similar to starting a gasoline powered vehicle. Notice in the procedure below the slight differences.

RESULT
The fault indicator will light for five seconds while the diagnostics are being run.
Initially, you will hear the power steering pump relay close and then a few seconds later, and if no faults occur, you will hear the main solenoid contacts for the battery click and the ready indicator will light.
The temperature gauge will fluctuate from minimum to maximum depending on the load and ambient temperature to which the system is subjected. The temperature indicator will normally stay in the lower half of the gauge. The PCU will shut down when the temperature of the coldplate

# Charging the Vehicle

**Procedure** Follow the procedure below to charge the vehicle.

Action	Result	
Ensure the main battery is switched to the on position	<b>Note</b> : Main battery switch should normally be on at all time, except when repairing.	
Ensure that the key is in the off position.	<b>Note</b> : The vehicle will not charge if the key is in the ON position.	
For Inductive Charging		
Insert charge paddle into charge port (Charging will take 3-4 hours)	Charge indicator blinks during the charge	
For Conductive Charging	cycle. Charge indicator will be continuously lit when the charging is complete.	
Plug vehicle into 110/220 volt outlet (use cord supplied with vehicle) (Charging will take 12-16 hours)		
For Inductive Charging		
Disconnect the charge paddle from the vehicle		
For Conductive Charging.		
Disconnect 110/220 volt AC single-phase line from charger receptacle.		

## **Maintenance Procedures**

Overview	viewThe drive system requires no scheduled maintenance, however, to maintain peak operating efficiency both	
the coolant and	the coolant and interface cables should be checked	
	regularly.	

MaintenanceBecause these items interface with the drive system<br/>and affect the system's efficiency, they should be<br/>checked as indicated on the schedule below.

Item	Interval	Maintenance
Coolant	Every 2 weeks	Check coolant level and top off with 50/50 water and ethylene glycol based anti-freeze. Coolant should be replaced every 12 months (Refer to Coolant Replacement Procedure)
Cables	Every 2 months	Perform a visual inspection and replace if needed.

#### Parts Numbers

**Overview** When ordering parts, refer to the chart below for the appropriate part number.

**Parts and Numbers** Notice that there are two motor assemblies, one for the prizim and one for the S-1 0 trucks.

Part	Number
PCU	A04601AA0
Motor Assembly (Prizm)	A04731AA0
Motor Encoder with Cable (W14)	A4706AA0
Optical Encoder Module (basic motor only)	HEDT-9100 F00
11 MM Opt Rad Code Wheel (basic motor only)	HEDS-5120F13
Grommet	MS35489-8
Motor Encoder Lid Gasket	A04705FX0
Motor Assembly (S-10 Trucks)	A04731AA0-1
Motor Encoder (W14)	A4706AA0-1
Optical Encoder Module (-1 motor only)	QEDS-5922
Grommet	MS35489-8
Motor Encoder Lid Gasket	A04705FX0