

# *Super PWRgate PG40S*



[www.westmountainradio.com](http://www.westmountainradio.com)

1020 Spring City Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
262-522-6503

[sales@westmountainradio.com](mailto:sales@westmountainradio.com)

©2015 West Mountain Radio, All rights reserved. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

---

## Introduction

Thank you for choosing the **Super PWRgate PG40S**....the high power OR Gate with a built-in four-stage battery charger. It makes a true solid-state UPS for the ham shack.

The **Super PWRgate PG40S** eliminates the danger of connecting a power supply directly across a battery, which can damage many power supplies. The **PG40S** also avoids introducing hum and RF interference, caused by most lead-acid battery chargers, by using a standard power supply. Furthermore, most lead-acid battery chargers are designed for flooded lead-acid marine or automotive batteries, and are inappropriate for charging sealed lead-acid gel and AGM type batteries. The **PG40S** will extend the life span of a sealed lead-acid battery compared to using a flooded lead- acid charger.

The **PG40S** transfers 40 amperes at 12 volts DC in a continuous safe manner. It connects a battery and a power supply to a load, while electrically isolating both the battery and the supply from each other. Whenever the power supply is on, the supply feeds the load. It also charges the battery with a high-current four-state safe battery charger. Whenever the power supply is off, the battery will feed the load. If either the power supply or the battery is malfunctioning, neither draws current from the other. The switching is instantaneous.

A **PG40S** is very useful in the ham shack, and even more useful in a repeater installation. Communication equipment will remain operative during AC power blackouts and power supply failures. Power supplies and batteries can be swapped out while equipment continues to be powered and without glitches.

Additionally, the **PG40S** and a power supply may be used solely as a permanently installed battery charger. This also may be configured to run a radio station directly from the battery.

**Please read the following instructions BEFORE  
installing the PG40S**

---

## Choosing a Mounting Location

Pick a location that is close or central to the power supply, battery, as well as the load or 12V distribution panel. Radios and many 12V devices draw large amounts of current. All wires have resistance, so it is good practice to keep them as short as possible and to use a larger gauge wire to minimize voltage drop.

The **PG40S** can be installed in any orientation. It is recommend to use in a cool dry location and preferably well ventilated. Do not tightly enclose the unit as the heat sink can become quite warm under maximum current. At 40A continuous current it will rise about 40 degrees Fahrenheit over ambient temperature in free air. If placed in direct sunlight, it will absorb heat and get unnecessarily hot.

The Super PWRgate can be mounted using number 8 hardware in the two mounting holes.

## Connecting the power supply

Use a regulated power supply that is between 13.8 volts and 15 volts.

Powerpole® connectors can be installed by soldering or crimping. Be sure to make good connections. For detailed Powerpole® connector installation tips see RIGrunner support pages at <http://www.westmountainradio.com/ppinfo>.

The power supply wire should be heavy gauge and as short as possible; recommend #10 wire 3 feet to no longer than 6 feet long. Most power supplies have 1/4 inch studs. Note that West Mountain Radio carries 3 and 6 feet long power supply cables, #10 red and black insulated wire with 1/4" in ring terminals on one end and Powerpole® on the other.

Be sure to connect the RED Powerpole® connects to the RED wire and connect to the PLUS terminal on the supply. Similarly, make sure that the BLACK Powerpole® connect to the BLACK wire and connect to the NEGATIVE terminal on the supply. Check that the connections at the power supply are well tightened.

Plug this cable from the power supply into the Super PWRgate connector marked **PS** (power supply). Confirm that the Powerpole® are plugged together securely, and that the wire is straight at the connection point and is not under strain or bent over.



## Connecting the Load or Power Strip

Anderson Powerpole® are used for all Super PWRgate connections. See the section “Powerpole® connector installation tips”.

The load wire should be heavy gauge and as short as possible. If connecting directly to a radio or other device, you will need to install Powerpole® on those cords. Modern radios use **RED** wire for positive, and **BLACK** wire for negative (or common or ground). Refer to the equipment manual if you have non-standard equipment. Plug this wire into the Super PWRgate terminal marked **OUT**.

If you are connecting the output to a power strip, such as a RIGrunner, it is recommended to use #10 wire, 3 feet to 6 feet long. At least one end will need Powerpole® installed; the other end can wire directly to the power strip or use connectors. Note that West Mountain Radio carries 3 feet and 6 feet long extension cables, #10 red and black insulated wire, with Powerpole® on both ends.

---

Plug this wire from the power strip or equipment into the Super PWRgate connector marked **OUT** (output). Confirm that the Powerpole® are plugged together securely, and that the wire is straight at the connection and is not under strain or bent over.

At this point, check out the system operation with the power supply. Turn on the power supply and turn on the radio or equipment. The radio or equipment should properly work.

## Connecting the Battery

Anderson Powerpole® are used for all Super PWRgate connections. See the section “Powerpole® connector installation tips”.

The battery wire should be heavy gauge and as short as possible; recommend #10 wire, 3 feet long. In addition, a fuse must be installed in the positive lead directly at the battery terminal. **Note, any short in the battery wire, connector, or load could result in fire and battery explosion.**

Large batteries have side, post, or threaded terminals. Deep cycle, marine, AGM, and others usually have 3/8 inch and 5/16 inch studs. Therefore, it is recommended to use a short 3 feet #10 wire, Powerpole® on one end, an in-line fuse (40 A max), and ring terminals for the battery end. West Mountain Radio carries a battery fuse kit, wire, and Powerpole®.

## Batteries

**Caution: Handle batteries with knowledge and appropriate care. Batteries have dangerous chemicals that can seep out. Batteries can emit extremely explosive hydrogen gas that is explosive. Batteries, especially automotive and marine flooded lead acid, must be used in a strong, ventilated enclosure. Sealed lead acid batteries are much safer but must be correctly handled with care.**

**NEVER make the last connection directly to a battery causing a spark that could cause the battery to explode, sending debris and acid in all directions. Batteries can get very hot when improperly charged or if a cell gets shorted. Batteries will explode during charging or discharging for a variety of reasons. Batteries are safe when handled properly.**

---

Choose a 12 volt battery with an ampere-hour rating according to your power needs. If the batteries are placed indoors they must be sealed for safety reasons. Again, it is very important to place a fuse at the positive battery terminal.

This manual does not cover all the types of batteries, but for use in the ham shack a lead-acid types battery is recommended because they offer the best price to power ratio. Gelled cells and absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries are sealed and are very safe. Some of these have a tiny positive pressure vent. Gelled cells are easiest to use with the Super PWRgate because the battery charging circuit comes configured properly and matches a 13.8 volt power supply. If using AGM batteries, it is suggested to slightly elevate the voltage for the power supply, and add a jumper change inside the Super PWRgate. It is not recommended to use any wet cell or a “starting” battery for automobiles. Use of marine deep-cycle batteries is only recommended if AGM or Gel type with solid plates.

West Mountain Radio carries size 24 Gelled and AGM batteries, as well as smaller and larger batteries.

## System Checkout

When the power supply and battery are connected, and the Super PWRgate is driving a radio, a quick checkout procedure should be followed:

- Run your radio, and unplug the power supply. The radio should operate without interruption now from the battery.
- Plug the power supply back in, and the radio will now be powered from the supply. If you have an ammeter on the supply it will show current.

It is recommended to use an in-line meter, such as the Power Analyzer sold by West Mountain Radio. It measures volts, amperes, watts, ampere-hours, and watt-hours simultaneously.

Place the Power Analyzer in-line with the power supply to measure its output. Unplug the load from the Super PWRgate to measure the battery's charging current. Plug the Power Analyzer into the Super PWRgate's output to measure either the power supply current if the supply is connected, or the battery's output current if the supply is disconnected or is turned off.

Refer to the charging circuit description to verify the different states when measuring the charging current.

---

# Voltages

Manufacturers list the lowest recommended DC supply voltage range for the specific radio model. Some radios are listed as 13.8 VDC +/- 15%, and others as 13.8 VDC +/-10%.

12 volt power supplies are regulated to provide 13.8 volts DC. The Super PWRgate has a diode in series that has a voltage drop of 0.25 V for 50 ma to 0.30 V for 1 ampere and 0.50V at 40 amperes. Under normal load the Super PWRgate output will be no less than 13.5 volts.

Fully charged 12 volt batteries exhibit around 13.5 volts open circuit. When supplying current, the battery's internal resistance diminishes the voltage. For instance, a 70 A-h battery will drop to 12.3 volts at 10 amperes at half discharge. The Super PWRgate will give a drop of 0.3 volts at 1 ampere, thereby providing 12.0 volts to the radio.

Additional voltage drops can easily occur due to the high current and the resistance in the wires, the fuses, and the connectors. Therefore, it is imperative to keep all wires as short as possible, as low of gauge as practical, and as few connectors as possible. Also use a large fuse on the battery, 30 or 40 amp to keep its voltage drop low. Use a voltmeter to check the voltage at the radio when running on battery power.

## Super PWRgate Charger

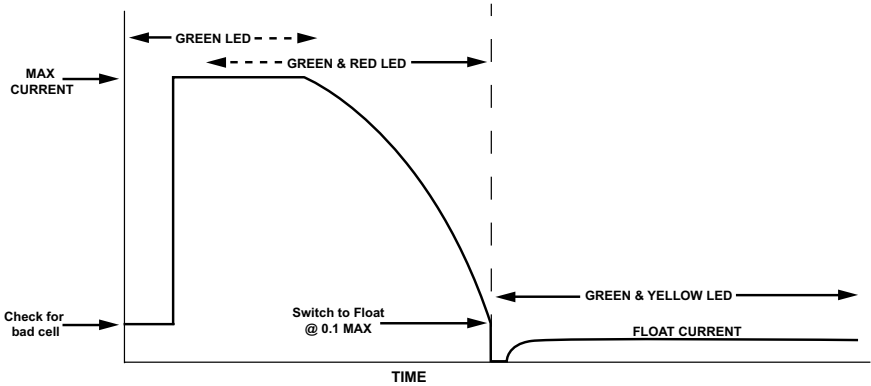
The charging circuit is a four-state high-current battery charger. The charging circuit, which is always connected to the battery, uses the power supply as the current source. It charges the battery automatically by knowing the battery's voltage. It also changes charging state if the power supply goes from "off" to "on", following a power outage, and it also changes state if the battery voltage drops when supplying heavy current. These conditions are interrelated to provide proper charging automatically.

The charger is a safe battery charger. It supplies the rated current if the battery is heavily discharged. Current drops in a smooth and progressively diminishing manner as the battery nears full charge. Note, that the charger is a feedback device and it cannot overcharge a 12 volt battery. Also, it will not charge a battery that has a dead cell.

The charging circuit has four selectable charging current settings, 1A, 4A, 7A, and 10A, to be chosen appropriately for the battery's rating.

The charging circuit has four selectable charging current settings, 1A, 4A, 7A, and 10A, to be chosen appropriately for the battery's rating.

### Typical Charging Curve



The four charging states are:

**Trickle charge...**If the battery is below 10 volts, then a low current of 50 ma is supplied. This is a safe current if the battery has a dead cell. But if the battery is good, the voltage will slowly rise to above 10 volts and then the charger will switch to the bulk charge state.

**Bulk Charge....** This is a high current state, selected by the maximum current setting (Fuse Jumper), and controlled by the battery's voltage. The charger will provide up to maximum current, limited by the circuit, the power supply voltage, and the battery's impedance and voltage.

**Peak Voltage....** This is often called the "absorption" state. The battery is charged with the voltage limit elevated to 13.8 V or 14.2 V (see below), until the current has diminished to a tenth of the maximum setting. At this current, the charger will change to the float state.

**Float.....** This is the resting state of the charged battery, often called the maintenance state. The charger will supply sufficient current, up to the maximum selected current, to keep the battery at the float voltage of 13.5 V.



---

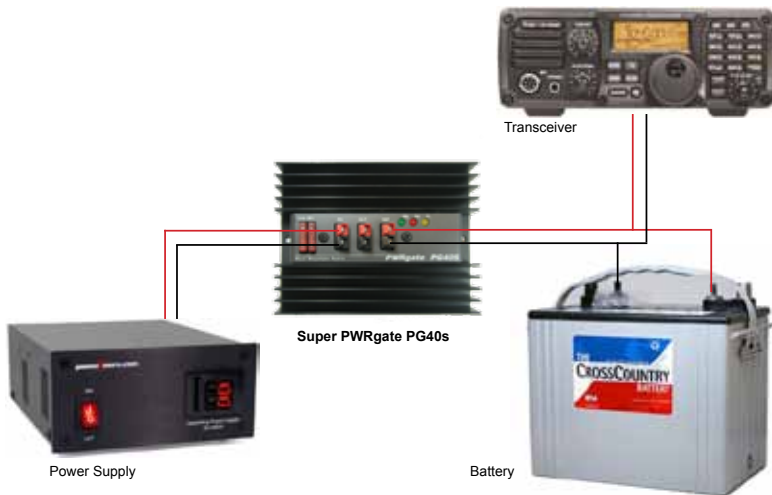
**The states are switched as follows:**

**Turn-on....** If the power supply is turned on, and the battery had been discharged below 10 volts, the charger will start in the trickle charge state, and then, if the battery rises above 10 volts, it changes into the bulk charge state. If the voltage rises to above 12 volts, then the peak voltage state is entered. Then, when the current has diminished to one-tenth of the maximum selected current, the float state is entered. If the battery is charged to over 13 volts, turning on the power supply will cause the charger to remain in the float state.

This turn on cycle occurs following a power outage.

**Discharging Battery....** If a load is placed on the battery, and the charger had been in the float state, and the battery voltage stays above 13 volts, the charger will remain in the float state supplying up to full current. If the battery voltage is discharged to less than 12 volts, and the load is removed, the charger will enter the peak voltage and eventually the float state as above.

If the radio station is connected directly to the battery and not through the Super PWRgate output, then the battery will supply the load while the battery is being charged. In fact, the current will be shared between the load and the battery. This method of powering a radio station was described by W1ZR in an article in QST, Dec 2003. See the diagram below for aW1ZR configuration.



---

## LED Indicators

**Green (ON)**.... Indicates that the charger is fully active and will provide up to maximum current to the battery according to the battery's state. Note that this LED does not measure nor indicate current flow, only the charger's state, ie. "fully active state and would charge a battery if it were connected."

**Green (ON) and RED (PK)**.... Indicates that the charger is in the peak voltage state (PK) and will provide up to maximum current to the battery. As the current is diminishing the charger attempts to reach an elevated battery voltage. When the current drops to one-tenth the maximum current setting the state changes to float.

**Green (ON) and Yellow (FL)**.... Indicates that the charger is in the float state (FL) and will provide up to maximum current to the battery to maintain the battery at the float voltage of 13.5 volts.

A typical charging curve is shown in the figure.

## Choosing and Setting the Maximum Charge Current

The charger has three internal current sensing resistors that can be activated for determining the maximum current limit. 40A fuses are used as the high current switch (need a high current jumper wire. The 40A fuse has the lowest resistance of the ATC fuses and closely approximates a true jumper.) Note that leaving the fuses out provides a charge current of 1 ampere. To get different charging current values install the fuses as follows.

**1 Ampere**..... No fuse

**4 Amperes**.....Fuse in left socket

**7 Amperes**.....Fuse in right socket

**10 Amperes**.....Fuse in both sockets

Use the following charging current for the listed lead-acid battery ratings.

**Use 1 ampere for batteries from 3 to 12 Ah.**

**Use 4 amperes for batteries from 13 to 32 Ah.**

**Use 7 amperes for batteries from 33 to 50 Ah.**

**Use 10 amperes for batteries from 51 Ah up.**

---

# Advanced Charger Considerations

## Gelled Cells

The battery charger uses the station power supply. For ham radio operators this is usually a 13.8 volt supply. Because of circuit components, this limits the peak charge voltage to around 13.6 volts, which is slightly less than a desired 13.8 volts for a gelled cell's peak. This results in a slightly low absorption state. The battery's charge, therefore, will be a few percent less than maximum available ampere-hours.

To achieve optimum battery charging, the power supply should be adjusted to 14.10 volts dc. The charger will now permit the battery to reach a peak voltage of 13.8 volts during the peak voltage cycle. The float state will remain at 13.5 Volts.

Note: Always use a accurate digital display voltmeter to assure accurate readings.

## AGM Cells

The charger can also be configured for an AGM type sealed battery. To do this precisely, the power supply should be re-adjusted to provide 14.50 volts. In addition, a jumper must be installed at J1 inside the Super PWRgate. Take the top cover off. The small blue jumper block should be lifted off the pin and re-installed shorting out the two pins. The charger will now permit the battery to reach a peak voltage of 14.2 volts during the peak voltage cycle. The float state remains at 13.5 volts.

Note: Always use a accurate digital display voltmeter to assure accurate readings.

Note that all major radio manufacturers specify that their radios will operate up to 15 Volts DC. Therefore using the Super PWRgate at an elevated voltage of 14.5 volts is fine.

# Specifications

**Maximum Voltage:** 18 Volts DC

**Maximum Current:** 40 Amperes

**Circuit:** Diode OR-Gate

**Diodes:** Two Schottky 80 Ampere, 20 Volt

**Voltage Drop:** 0.25 VDC Quiescent

0.37 VDC at 40 Amperes

**Charging Circuit:** Charging regulator IC

Field Effect Pass Transistor

Schottky Diode

Fuse switched for 1, 4, 7, or 10 Amperes

(+2,-8%) maximum

Peak voltage limit: 13.8 (Gelled Cells),

14.2 (AGM), (+,-2%)

Peak voltage terminate point: 1/10 maximum current

Float Voltage: 13.5 volts (+,-2%)

Reference voltages are temperature compensated

**Connectors:** Anderson Powerpole®, 40A

**Size:** 5.25 x 3.90 x 1.65 in, 13.4 x 9.9 x 4.2 cm

**Weight:** 0.9 lbs, 0.4 kg

**Mounting Holes:** Two, 0.175 d, at 4.875 in. distance, for #8 hardware

## ***Super PWRgate PG40S Warranty***

*Super PWRgate PG40S* is warranted against failure due to defects in workmanship or materials for one year after the date of purchase from West Mountain Radio. Warranty does not cover damage caused by abuse, accident, misuse, improper or abnormal usage, failure to follow instructions, improper installation, alteration, lightning, or other incidence of excessive voltage or current. If failure occurs within this period, return the *Super PWRgate PG40S* or accessory to West Mountain Radio at your shipping expense. The device or accessory will be repaired or replaced, at our option, without charge, and returned to you at our shipping expense. Repaired or replaced items are warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. You will be charged for repair or replacement of the *Super PWRgate PG40S* or accessory made after the expiration of the warranty period.

West Mountain Radio shall have no liability or responsibility to customer or any other person or entity with respect to any liability, loss, or damage caused directly or indirectly by use or performance of the products or arising out of any breach of this warranty, including, but not limited to, any damages resulting from inconvenience, loss of time, data, property, revenue, or profit, or any indirect, special incidental, or consequential damages, even if West Mountain Radio has been advised of such damages.

Except as provided herein, West Mountain Radio makes no express warranties and any implied warranties, including fitness for a particular purpose, are limited in duration to the stated duration provided herein.



**www.westmountainradio.com**  
**1020 Spring City Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186**  
**tel 262-522-6503 fax 262-522-6504**