

Original Comment:

03/02/02

I am thinking of adding an extra battery to our 320. I'm thinking in terms of another 100 Ahr capacity (ish). Has anyone done this and has any tips?

Will I need to change the alternator or any other part of the charging circuit?

Graham Smith B320 Sweet Memories

Replies:

Graham

You should try to fit a battery of a similar type and size if the 2 are going to be wired in parallel (I assume you already have a separate starting battery?). If the battery you are mating with is suspect (or just 'old') then it is probably advisable to buy 2 identical new ones - expensive maybe, but better than the new one being dragged down by the old one. The alternator is unlikely to need replacing (unless it is rated at less than 50 amps - which is unlikely). Fitting a 'smart' regulator is definitely worth it, though, to get the best out of the alternator and to keep your batteries fully topped up. I fitted an Adverc and would highly recommend it, but there are several others available now. Regarding physical location and strapping down etc. I can't help much, I'm afraid, as I don't know the boat. However, it is fairly obvious, I guess, that the new battery should be very securely located in its own battery box and cable runs should be kept as short as possible. Ideally, the new battery should be right next to its 'partner'. I assume you already have a battery switch and/or split charge diodes (assuming you have a separate starting battery) so wiring the new one in parallel with the existing one should be no problem. Halfords do a good line in battery cables. I know you should use expensive tinned copper for marine applications but for this problem (short runs etc.) and easily accessible where you can be generous with the WD40 and/or vaseline, then there should be no problem using 'standard' cable.

If you don't have a separate starting battery, please don't publish this reply - let me have another go!

Roger Leaman (Playtime B380)