

Subject / Vehicles:

Charging Failures & Battery Maintenance - Legend & Chetak

Battery Charging Failures

An unusual number of battery charging failures have been reported. The Bajaj Auto factory has responded with the following information based on their experiences.

Proper grounding of the Regulator/Rectifier, that sits behind the battery tray, is critical to its' proper functioning. This important black grounding wire, with terminal, sits under one of the bolts that secures the High Tension Ignition coil to the engine block. While there is also a grounding wire from the Regulator/Rectifier to the battery bracket, this is not the critical connection. The most often reported cause of poor charging is this loose connection on the grounding wire.

Other potential sources for poor or intermittent battery charging are loose connections at:

- a) Regulator/Rectifier coupler
- b) At Magneto coupler
- c) At fuse terminal. A blown fuse will also prevent charging of the battery.

Regulator/Rectifier Failures

The Regulator/Rectifiers installed on the 2002 Chetak and Legend (P/N CF201014) do not have the capacity to charge a dead battery. If this is attempted, a high failure rate of this component has been seen. A more robust Regulator/Rectifier (P/N 28201092) is installed in 2003 scooters, the improved regulator may be retrofitted to the 2002 models by drilling two holes in the battery holder for mounting.

In any case, the charging system on the scooter does not have the capacity to properly charge a dead battery.

New batteries, before installation, are to be charged for 8 to 12 hours at 1 amp. The specific gravity of a fully charged battery will be 1.27 to 1.28 - corrected to 80 degrees F.

Charging System Test

If the charging system is functioning properly, the following values should be seen.

Charging amperage: 1.0 to 3.0 at 3500 rpm.

Battery DC Voltage: 14.7 +/- 1V at 3500 rpm.

Details of the test procedure may be found in the Service Manuals available for download on the Bajaj USA website. Go to the Tech Tips /Info page.

Battery Maintenance

Keep the battery clean and dry.

Check fluid level in battery once a month. Never add acid, only distilled water.

Keep terminals free of corrosion, coat with petroleum jelly for protection.

Be sure vent tube is open and free of kinks.

For winter or long term storage, place the battery on a trickle charger.