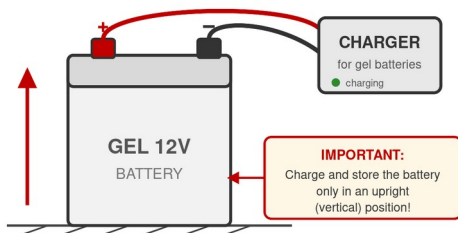


CHARGING AND STORING THE BATTERY DURING WINTER

Charging the battery

The Gel (lead-acid) battery must be charged exclusively with a charger intended for gel/AGM batteries, with automatic voltage regulation. Ordinary car chargers do not have this regulation and can permanently damage the battery. The charging voltage must not exceed 14.4 V and the charging current must not exceed 2 A. Charging is finished when the charger indicates so - usually after 6 to 12 hours, depending on the battery capacity and the level of discharge. While charging is in progress, a red LED is usually lit on the charger, and when the battery is fully charged, a green LED turns on.

Charge the battery in a dry and ventilated room, at a temperature above freezing. First connect the clamps (red to +, black to -), and only then plug the charger in. During charging and storage, the battery must always stand in an upright (vertical) position, as shown in the sketch below.



Charging the gel battery in an upright position

Storing during winter

At the end of the beekeeping season, remove the battery from the scale, clean the clamps and charge it fully. Store it in a dry and cool place, ideally at a temperature of 5 to 15 °C - never in freezing conditions, because a discharged battery can freeze and crack at low temperatures.

Lead-acid batteries discharge on their own over time, so during winter the battery should be recharged every 2 months. Never leave it discharged: standing in a discharged state causes sulfation of the plates and permanently reduces the capacity. Before the new season, charge the battery fully - a healthy, fully charged 12V gel battery at rest shows about 12.8 V. A regularly maintained battery will last for many seasons and ensure reliable operation of the SMS Scale throughout the forage season.