Managing 30-Amp Power

Tips on Running Your Inverters

There are many beautiful destinations throughout the country to enjoy your Marathon coach. In your travels you may find yourself docking at an outdoor destination that does not offer 50-amp shore power. Fortunately, Marathon coaches are engineered to make the transition to 30-amp power easy and painless.

The first thing you need to do is adjust the amperage setting on both inverters. The inverter control panels, which are located in the bedroom or watercloset depending on when your coach was built, allow you to change the default setting for each inverter. Under the menu heading, "Inverter Mode," is the option to "Set Shore Cord Size." Set each of the two 4,000-watt inverters to 14 amps, to equal a total of 28 amps of power.

Now that you've determined that the shore outlet only supplies 30 amps, you need to attach the 30-amp adapter to the shore cord plug. Locate the shore power breaker box in the driver's side second bay, turn the disconnect breaker switch off, and plug your shore cord into the shore service. To protect your coach, the shore box will only allow power to pass through the bus if it detects the proper neutral converter, proper polarity, and proper voltage. If each of these is correct, the shore box will show four illuminated green LED lights. When you see these, it's safe to engage the shore power disconnect switch. (Note: If your coach was built between 1997 and 1999, your shore box may not be equipped with LED lights.)

You have now successfully programmed your coach to run on 30 amps. If you are accustomed to using 50-amp shore plugs or your generator as a power source, you may be concerned that you are using more than the 30-amp limit. Not to worry. If you exceed the 30 amps, your inverters will pull the extra energy from your house batteries. Conversely, if you are using less than 30 amps of power, your inverters will charge your batteries. The Trace Inverter system in your coach will conveniently monitor the condition of your house batteries, and if it drops below 21.7 volts, the inverters will automatically activate your generator. The generator is an ample secondary power source, but many outdoor parks prohibit their use during certain hours. During a time when generator use is prohibited, you should periodically check the house battery levels to be sure they don't dip below 21.7 volts. (Note: If you encounter a shore plug under 30 amps, follow the same steps but adjust the inverter power on the "Shore/Inverters" display screen in the

bedroom. If you encounter difficulties making this adjustment, don't hesitate to call our 24-hour support line at [800] 365-0156.)

Certain elements in your coach use an inconsistent level of energy. The air conditioning system, heater, and water heaters are all temperature sensitive and automatically adjust their respective levels according to the temperature outside. For example, if it is a cool day, the air conditioners require less power, so you may be able to run two on 30 amps and have energy to spare. Your house batteries are also affected by temperature; they will deplete faster in cold weather and slower in warm weather. These are important factors to remember when adjusting your power use.

Thirty amperes of electricity is enough power for you to have a wonderful, relaxing experience in your coach. A 30-amp hookup simply requires that you make minor adjustments to conserve power. For example, run your dishwasher and washer/dryer when the temperature outside is cooler (at morning or night) and the air conditioner is unnecessary. These small adjustments will allow you to run an air conditioner, the audio/video system, and your interior lights during the day, without depleting your house batteries. See the table in this article for detailed information about coach appliances and their amperage values.

APPLIANCE	PEAK AMP DRAW
AIR CONDITIONER (CRUISAIR EACH)	16.0
ROOF AIR (DOMETIC)	13.0
ROOF AIR (COLEMAN)	12.0
COOKTOP, GAGGENAU (2-BURNER, 240 V)	12.5
DISHWASHER	12.5
HEATERS, CADET (EACH)	8.0
HEATERS, WATER (EACH)	11.6
INVERTER/CHARGER, TRACE (EACH)	VARIES UP TO 33.0
MICROWAVE (SHARP)	13.3
REFRIGERATOR (AMANA)	8.0
TELEVISIONS (20") EACH	1.0
TRASH COMPACTOR	12.0
VACUUM (EUREKA)	8.0
PUMP, WATER (MACH 5)	6.0
WASHER (ASKO, 240 V)	12.5
DRYER (ASKO, 240 V)	12.5
WASHER/DRYER COMBOMATIC (SPENDIDE)	14.0

Knowing the amperage levels of your coach components makes it easy to operate at 30 amps. Just add the amp numbers together and keep the total below 30. For example, one air conditioner at 16 amps + cooktop at 12 amps + 1 television at 2 amps = 30 amps.

If you follow these instructions, the next time you encounter a 30-amp hookup your camping experience should be trouble free. We want to ensure that your travels are pleasant in every detail, and that nothing stands between you and your next adventure. •