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Polarizing a Generator

Polarization is a procedure to match the polarity of a generator and voltage regulator, also known as a “dynamo” and “control box,” respectively. Modern electrical systems are negative ground (or “earth” in UK parlance), but any Jaguar with a generator (as opposed to an alternator) is configured positive ground. When installing a new generator, or when the battery has been disconnected, the polarization procedure must be performed.

To polarize a generator after the battery has been disconnected, or a new generator or voltage regulator has been installed, follow this procedure:

Do not turn on the ignition switch or start the vehicle. Make a small jumper wire from 14- or 16-gauge wire and attach alligator clips on either end. Find the terminal labeled “B” on the regulator and attach one of the alligator clips. Next, find the terminal labeled “D” and touch the terminal with the other alligator clip. You can do this several times; a soft spark should be produced each time. Never touch the terminal labeled “F” or any other part of the regulator or you’ll risk damage to the regulator.

Start the car and gently rev the engine. The red generator light on the instrument panel should go off. Alternatively, the amp gauge (if your car is so equipped) should swing toward the “+” side.