

SOUPED-UP ALTERNATOR

R. Christman, whose letter appeared in "Q&A" in the January issue of *Electronics Now*, might be interested to know that the ampacity of at least some automotive alternators can be increased.

I use a full-size Ford to tow a travel trailer. When I bought the car a number of years ago, I soon discovered that the alternator was not up to the task. I obtained an exchange stator for the alternator from a friend in the automotive electric business. That stator had been rewound by a remanufacturer to allow the alternator to put out 100 amps. I'm not sure what the stock alternator was, although it was probably rated at 60 amps. The original rectifier/regulator assembly was reused. After I rebuilt the alternator (using new bearings and brushes as well as the beefed-up stator), I had it tested and found that it could actually put out up to 120 amps. That alternator has been going for many years now, and the diodes and regulator have survived.

The edited note from R. Christman did not indicate what type of car he is dealing with, but it might be worth his while to check with a local automotive electric business.

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