



Mercedes-Benz

service information

TO: OUR MERCEDES-BENZ PASSENGER CAR DEALERS

DATE: November 1993 (Supersedes S.I. MBNA 54/40, Nov. 1992) **REF. NO.** MBNA 54/40a

Revision: *Model applicability, and revised text.*

SUBJECT: ALL MODELS
BATTERY JUMP-STARTING AND CHARGING

With the increasing number of complex electronic control modules in modern automobiles comes an increased risk of electronic component damage when working with the battery. To avoid damage to the vehicle's electrical system, certain procedures must be followed.

WARNING!

Batteries contain sulfuric acid and generate a highly flammable and explosive hydrogen gas. Always wear eye protection, preferably chemical safety goggles or a face shield when working on or near batteries. Never lean over a battery. Improper connecting or disconnecting of battery terminals, jumper cables or charger clamps can create sparks. A spark, flame or lighted cigarette can cause a battery to explode and cause serious facial/eye injuries. Never jump start or charge a frozen battery, this may cause the battery to explode. A frozen battery must be first thawed out before jump starting or charging.

Refer to S.I. MBNA 54/38 (October 1993) for a complete description of proper battery care and handling procedures.

Jump starting

CAUTION!

The power surges generated during a typical jump start are substantial. While the electronic components in all Mercedes-Benz automobiles are designed to withstand a normal jump-starting attempt, damage may occur if the incorrect procedure is used. **Therefore, all service personnel are cautioned that Mercedes-Benz vehicles are to be jump started only from another 12 volt battery.** The use of starting devices (such as boost-start chargers, free-standing generators, etc.) is likely to cause extensive damage to the electrical system and its components.

General procedure for jump starting from one vehicle to another (follow procedure in Owner's Manual for specific vehicle applications)

1. Position the vehicle with the charged battery so that the jumper cables will reach, but never let the vehicles touch. Make sure the jumper cables do not have loose or missing insulation.
2. On both vehicles:
 - Turn off engine and all lights and accessories, except hazard warning flashers or work lamp.
 - Apply parking brake and shift selector lever to position "P".

Important!

3. Clamp one end of the first jumper cable to positive (+) terminal of the discharged battery and the other end to positive (+) terminal of the charged battery. Make sure the cable clamps do not touch any other metal parts.
4. Clamp one end of the second jumper cable to the grounded negative (-) terminal of the charged battery and the final connection to a grounded heavy metal bracket in the engine compartment or on the engine of the disabled vehicle (In case the disabled vehicle is equipped with a trunk-mounted battery, make the final connection to either a grounded metal bracket or the battery ground wire where it attaches to the vehicle body.).
5. Start engine of the vehicle with the charged battery, switch off all unnecessary accessories and run at high idle. Make sure the cables are not on or near pulleys, fans, or other parts that will move when the engine is started. Then start engine of the disabled vehicle in the usual manner.
6. After the engine has started, remove jumper cables by exactly reversing the above installation sequence, starting with the last connection made first. When removing each clamp, make sure that it does not touch any other metal while the other end is still attached.

Jumper cable specifications

- Minimum cable cross-section of 25mm² or approx. 2 AWG
- Maximum length of 11.5 ft. (3.5m).

Charging

⚠ CAUTION!

Always disconnect the battery from the vehicle's electrical system before connecting a battery charger. Most battery chargers generate voltage high enough to cause electrical system and component damage.

In all cases, the instructions in the owners manual should be followed. Damage caused by improper jump starting and/or charging is not covered under warranty, since this is considered a workshop risk.

Labeling

A warning label (Figure 1) is being installed in all models at the VPC. In case this label is missing or damaged, it may be ordered as a literature item through MB-NET. The labels are available individually

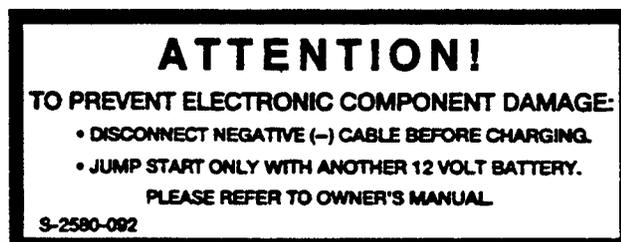


Figure 1

Description	Part Number	Dealer Net (\$)
Battery charging warning label	S-2580-092	0.01

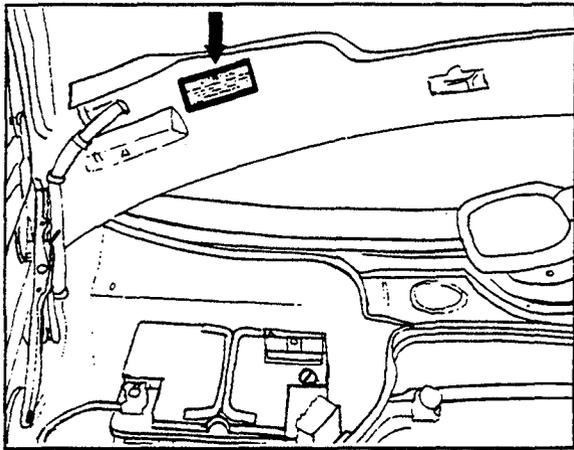


Figure 2 Model 124 (except 124.034/036)
On hood crossmember above battery.

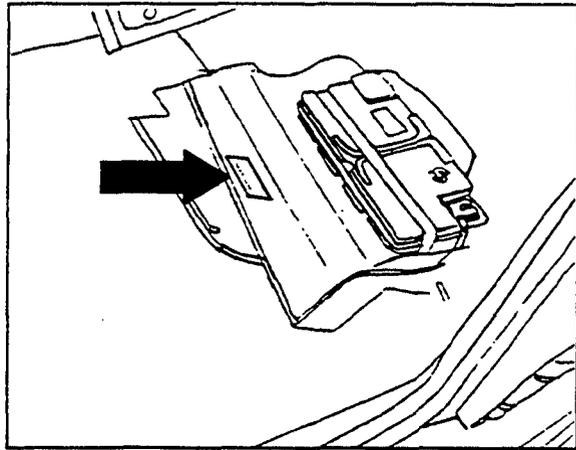


Figure 3 Model 124.034
Placed over existing sticker on underside of battery cover facing battery.

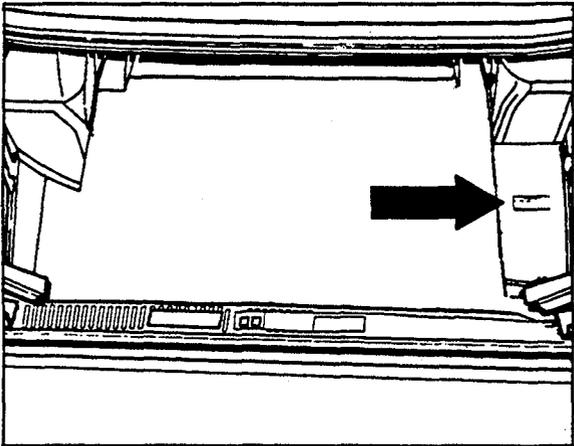


Figure 4 Model 124.036
On battery compartment cover, visible with floor mat lifted.

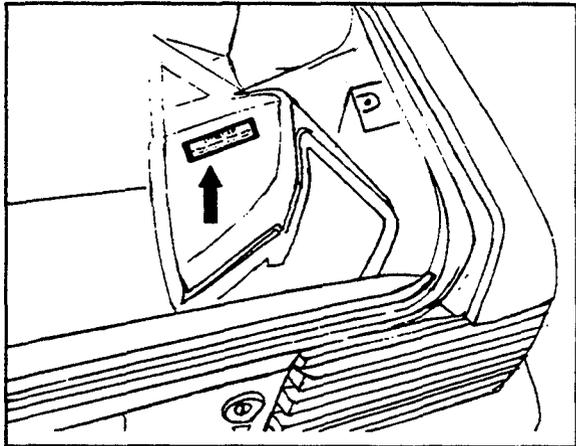


Figure 5 Model 129
On battery compartment cover, facing quarter panel above battery.

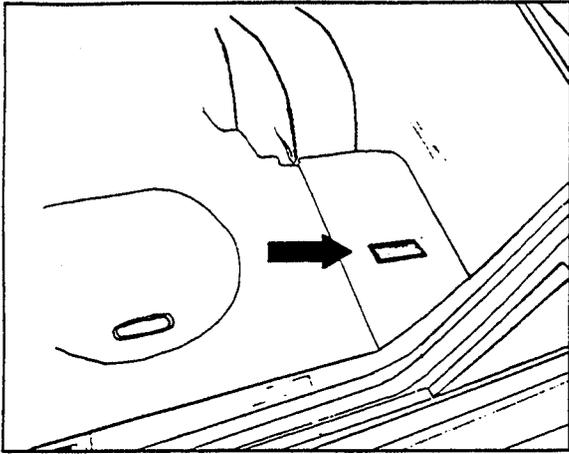


Figure 6 Model 140
On top of battery compartment cover, visible with floor mat lifted.

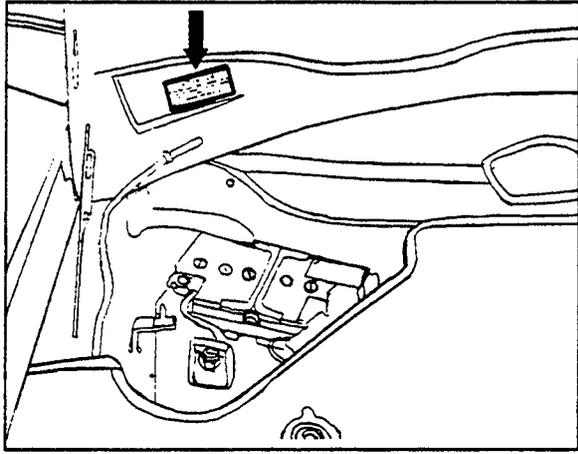


Figure 7 Model 201
On hood crossmember above battery.

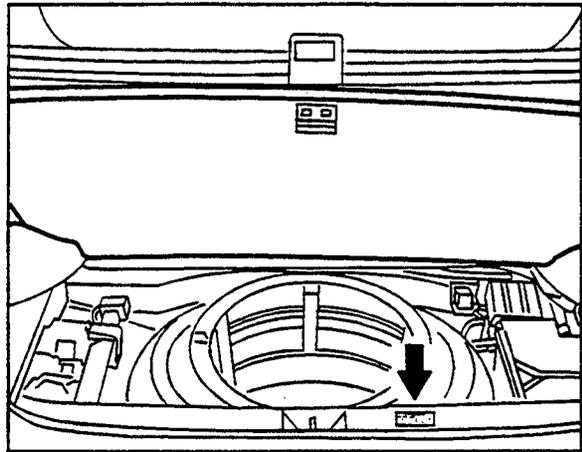


Figure 8 Model 202
On top of rear center piece trim cover