

**INVERT-A-POWER  
SPI 1200i-12SS**

**12VDC TO 240VAC  
POWER INVERTER**

## **OWNERS' MANUAL**

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# 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your wise choice of this 1200 Watt Selectronic Silver Series Power Inverter.

The INVERT-A-POWER range allows you to operate a variety of 240 volt AC appliances from a 12 volt battery. This is achieved by electronically converting a low voltage direct current (DC) into a higher voltage alternating current (AC).

Reliable short term intermittent (or surge) power is available from these models, which is sufficient to start 4600 Watts of total appliance load. Inverter operating times for various load powers are tabulated in the Specifications section of this manual on page 8.

Please note that there are some appliances that are not suitable for operation from a power inverter. Note also that, when using compact fluorescent lamps, good quality lamps should be chosen, to ensure high reliability and high efficiency. If you have any queries about suitable appliances, please contact your INVERT-A-POWER agent for further advice.

Because of the high power capabilities of your INVERT-A-POWER, we strongly suggest that you take particular note of the installation steps in this manual.

Please remember to complete all details on your warranty card and return it to us as soon as possible.

## 2. INSTALLATION

Installation is best approached under two headings:

- (a) Environmental considerations
- (b) Electrical wiring

### (a) Environmental

An INVERT-A-POWER has internal circuitry that is closely related to a HIFI audio amplifier. However, unlike most audio amplifiers, inverters are often exposed to some or all of the following hazards:

- Moisture (possibly salt laden)
- Dust
- Temperature extremes
- Battery acid fumes
- Generator exhaust fumes
- Nesting animals

To help protect your investment, try to minimize the above factors if at all possible. Also, choose a position that will allow some natural cooling for the inverter. The heatsink at the rear should ideally be placed in a position where heat can easily disperse through natural convection.

### (b) Electrical Wiring

In general, we strongly advise that all electrical installation work should be carried out by a qualified electrician.

#### 1. Low Voltage DC Wiring

It is of vital importance to keep battery connectors and terminals in good condition, since very large electric currents are involved. Loose connections or faulty battery cells can allow excessive voltages during charging and damage to the inverter could occur.

Before you connect the inverter battery leads to the battery terminals, we advise you to turn OFF switch  $\pm 1$  (as shown in fig 3.3 overleaf). When connections are complete, return switch 1 to its NORMAL position (fig 3.1).

Please observe the following points concerning the DC leads:

- Do not extend the length of battery leads or the efficiency of the system will be compromised.
- Wiring between inverter and battery should be direct (do not fit any DC switching devices such as relays or changeover switches).

It is suggested that the battery leads be twisted around each other prior to connection to the batteries. This action can lower the amount of radiated electrical noise which can sometimes affect AM radio reception on weak stations. A good external AM aerial may also be necessary in some installations.

## 2. 240V AC Wiring

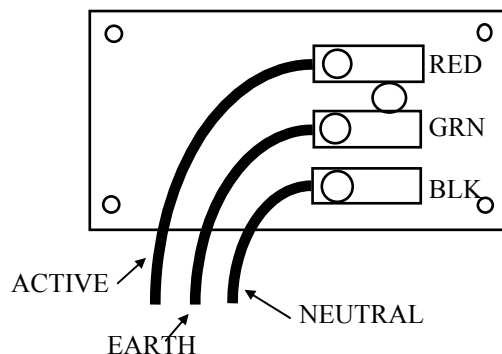
### WARNING -

#### **The voltage from an inverter is just as lethal as land line power.**

It is therefore absolutely necessary for your safety, to ensure that all Remote Area power system installations meet and comply with the relevant provisions and requirements of AS3000 wiring standards. It is imperative that you ensure also that only Registered Electrical contractors or licensed electrical mechanics are permitted to install or check any wiring in your installation.

When installing this inverter or tracing wiring faults, be aware of the following:

- Both 240V active and neutral have complete electrical isolation from both battery connections and also from the metal case of the inverter. However, when wired up as a "MEN" system, the Neutral and Earth can be connected together at the switchboard.
- The inverter uses a pulsing demand start system (see section 3(a) overleaf) which produces potentially dangerous voltages. Disconnect the inverter before undertaking any work on the mains wiring.
- Power factor (PF) correction capacitors are not required with this inverter. Check fluorescent light fittings and remove capacitors where fitted.
- If an inverter/generator changeover switch is used, it is vital that AC from the generator must not be allowed to be fed back into the inverter or permanent damage will result. Thus a "break-before-make" type of AC switch (or relay) is required.
- Occasionally it is found that, in an installation, the inverter will not return to the "Standby" mode. In such cases, the sensitivity of the demand start system may have to be reduced. This will require access to the circuit board, and the procedure for this adjustment is outlined in Section 8 of this manual.

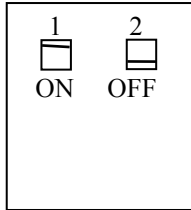


Recommended 240V HARD WIRING AND EARTHING  
For a REMOTE AREA POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
Employing an SPI 1200i-12N/S

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

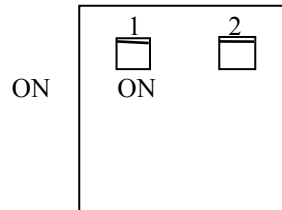
#### (a) Operating Modes

Three modes of operation can be selected by switches (1) and (2). Each operating mode is described below.



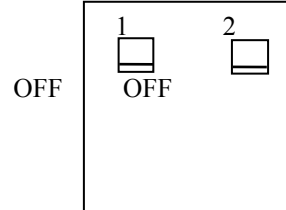
(1) NORMAL

fig 3.1



(2) DEMAND START  
OVERRIDE

fig 3.2



(3) ON/OFF

fig 3.3

#### (1) NORMAL

Most appliances will be sensed by this advanced Demand Start system used in this INVERT-A-POWER. Generally, appliances that consume at least 4 watts of power will start this INVERT-A-POWER. When all of the appliances are switched off, the INVERT-A-POWER reverts to the standby state again. This is the preferred mode of operation for the inverter, with a very low standby battery consumption.

#### (2) DEMAND START OVERRIDE

In the rare instances where the INVERT-A-POWER remains in the Standby Mode even when the appliance switch is turned on, you may need to override the demand start via switch (2). Other situations where this may be useful include:

- Power tool operation
- For continuous operation of timing mechanisms in VCRs, microwave ovens and washing machines.

Be aware that when operating continuously, the inverter consumes approximately 1.7 Amps even with no appliances connected.

#### (3) ON/OFF

When switch (1) is turned OFF, the INVERT-A-POWER is reset from shutdown modes 1 and 5 as described in the following pages.

Turn switch (1) back ON to restart the inverter.

## **(b) Battery Voltage Out of Range**

An internal buzzer warns you if the battery voltage is either too low or too high. The sound produced is an interrupted tone that continues until the situation is corrected.

### **(1) Low Battery Voltage Shutdown**

If the amount of energy that has been removed from your batteries causes the terminal voltage to drop below approximately 10.0 volts, the internal alarm buzzer will produce an interrupted tone, and the inverter will switch off. Note that the battery voltage is able to drop below 10 volts briefly to facilitate the starting of motors and other appliances that have a high surge requirement.

The buzzer will continue to sound until either:

- (i) The batteries are recharged to approximately 13 volts, at which point the inverter will automatically restart and the alarm tone will cease.  
or:
- (ii) ON / OFF switch (1) is briefly turned OFF then back ON.

### **(2) High Battery Voltage Shutdown**

To protect the inverter and your appliances, the inverter shuts down if the battery voltage exceeds approximately 15.5 volts. To restart, the voltage must be reduced to approximately 14.5 volts.

## **(c) Other Shutdown Modes**

Since this inverter has been designed to operate over a wide range of power levels, there are a number of inbuilt protection devices to prevent excessive internal temperatures from occurring.

### **(1) High Internal Temperature**

If the temperature inside the inverter exceeds approximately 45° C, the fan is activated. If the internal temperature continues to rise above 70° C, the inverter will switch itself off until it cools sufficiently.

### **(2) High MOSFET Temperature**

During medium to high power operation, this shutdown mode may occur. For example, after approx. 1 minute from 25° C at 3000 Watts, the output voltage of the inverter will be reduced to allow the power switching devices (MOSFETs) to cool down.

### **(3) Reactive Load Over-temperature**

If the appliance load has an excessive reactive component, for example, large capacitance and/or inductance, the INVERT-A-POWER will shut itself down due to high MOSFET temperatures, then restart on cooling.

### **(4) Over Current Protection**

This protection system prevents overloads from occurring when for example, motors and incandescent lamps are started. If an excessively large load is switched on (an extreme case is a short circuit), the maximum current that is permitted to flow is set at 450 Amps DC.

### **(5) Short Circuit Output**

For safety purposes, the inverter will shut down completely after approximately 10 seconds if the AC output is short circuited.

This will also occur if the AC voltage drops to less than 140 volts RMS. The internal buzzer will emit a continuous tone under this shutdown mode. This situation is covered in more detail in the "Fault Finding" section of this manual.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance on the INVERT-A-POWER is minimal and consists of the following:

1. Check for unobstructed fan operation:

Clear any dust/foreign matter with a soft bristled brush. (Do not direct high pressure compressed air at the fan blades)

Note that the fan is designed to come on during heavy power demand. Periodically check that the fan starts and spins smoothly.

2. Check between fins of the heatsink and clean out any accumulated foreign objects, for example, insect nests.
3. Carry out a thorough visual inspection of all wiring, particularly around the battery terminals. Connections should be tight with minimal corrosion. Please regard your batteries with a great deal of caution and entrust any such work to your electrician.

Note: When cleaning external surfaces, use a soft, lint free cloth, with polish and wax. e.g. Mr Sheen.

## 5. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The following description is not comprehensive enough to be used as a service manual, but is a brief introduction to the theory of operation of this particular power inverter.

The majority of the electronic components are located on a double-sided printed circuit board measuring 274mm by 177mm which is lacquered to minimize the penetration of moisture.

As stated previously in this manual, a power inverter of this design operates in a similar fashion to a very high powered audio amplifier. Rather than amplifying audio signals, this inverter amplifies two digital signals, known as the gate drive voltages. Following amplification, the resultant switched battery voltages are combined in a highly efficient C-core step-up transformer, which produces approximately 340 peak volts at nominal battery voltage.

This inverter uses 26 MOSFETs (Metal Oxide Field Effect Transistors) as the low voltage switching devices. Each transistor consists of around 4400 individual MOSFET cells connected in parallel to give a very high current handling capability. This system produces low losses and therefore high efficiency. The design also permits high surge power.

Six more high voltage MOSFETs are used in an "Energy Recovery" circuit for improved running of inductive loads, such as induction motors and fluorescent lights.

## 6. FAULT FINDING

If your INVERT-A-POWER appears to be malfunctioning, we suggest that you follow the steps below so that you can isolate the problem.

1. Set switches 1 and 2 to NORMAL as shown in fig 3.1 on page 4.
2. Turn ON one of the GPOs (power point) which will activate the respective neon indicator when AC voltage is present (see \* below)
3. Operate appliances and observe the INVERT-A-POWER behaviour as summarised below:

### SUMMARY OF INVERTER STATUS:

BUZZER/ NEONS	INVERTER STATUS (if applicable)	REMEDY
GPO NEON FLASHING *	Standby mode	
GPO NEON CONTINUOUSLY LIT *	Normal Running	
BUZZER WITH CONTINUOUS TONE	Appliance load too large	Reduce total load then reset with Switch 1
BUZZER WITH BROKEN TONE	Battery voltage out of range	Refer to Page 5 for details

By consulting the above table, you should be able to determine whether there is a fault in your installation. If you are having problems that you are unable to solve, we advise you to contact your agent for help.

Please note that there are no user-serviceable fuses within this inverter.

If for any reason, you need to return your INVERT-A-POWER to your agent, we prefer that you use the original carton and packing material. Therefore, do not dispose of the carton.

# 7. SPECIFICATIONS

## INVERTER TYPE

Crystal locked, high efficiency PWM switching with Energy Recovery.

## DEMAND START

Type:	Pulsing
Minimum Load Power to start:	Selectable 4W or 8W
Maximum wiring - capacitance:	0.2uF
length (2.5mm twin + earth)	250m
Standby current from battery:	60mA

## BATTERY VOLTAGE RANGE

Minimum-	Cutout:	10.0V
	Cutin:	12.5V
Maximum-	Cutout:	15.5V
	Cutin:	14.5V

## TOTAL APPLIANCE RATING

(at 25 °C)

Continuous:	1200W
30 Minute rating:	1450W
5 Minute rating:	2200W
1 Minute rating:	3200W
Surge rating:	4600W

## ELECTRICAL ISOLATION

Input to Output:	2kV
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## CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR SECTION

Accuracy:	+/- 0.02%
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## COOLING FAN

Cutin Temperature:	approx. 45 °C
Cutout Temperature:	approx. 35 °C

Note: Selectronic reserves the right to change data if necessary.  
The above specifications are based on unity power factor.



## 8. DEMAND START SENSITIVITY SELECTION

This INVERT-A-POWER incorporates a 2 position switch, situated on the circuit board, to enable two pre-set levels of demand start sensitivity to be selected. This switch is set to the highest sensitivity position (4 Watts of AC load) at the factory.

### Situations Requiring Reduced Demand Start Sensitivity

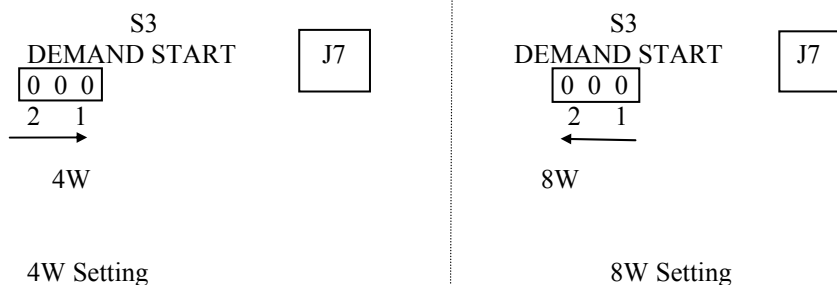
In installations that involve an unusually large amount of AC wiring, the inverter may not revert to its standby mode even when all appliances are turned off. This is usually caused by high wiring capacitance which the inverter cannot distinguish from a small appliance.

Check also that there are no "phantom" loads, such as small DC adapters which will keep the inverter switched on.

### To Alter Demand Start Sensitivity

WARNING: This procedure should be carried out by a licensed electrician.

1. Disconnect at least one battery lead
2. Unscrew all 12 Philips head screws and remove the lid
3. Locate switch S3 near the 2-pin connector J7. If necessary, bend the front panel outwards to provide access to the switch.
4. Select the required switch setting as shown below.



## 9. WARNING

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It is therefore absolutely necessary for your safety, to ensure that all Remote Area power system installations meet and comply with the relevant provisions and requirements of AS3000 wiring standards.

It is imperative that you ensure also that only Registered Electrical contractors or licensed electrical mechanics are permitted to install or check any wiring in your installation.

## 10. PRODUCT WARRANTY CONDITIONS

Selectronic Australia Pty Ltd warrants your SPI 1200i-12N/S inverter to be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use and service, for two (2) years.

The warranty is applicable only from the date of original purchase. All parts will be replaced or repaired free of charge within this period. The unit shall be returned at no cost to the owner.

The provision of this warranty shall not apply if the unit has been subject to misuse, neglect, acts of God, accidental damage or has been used for a purpose for which it is not designed.

Any alterations or repairs by unauthorised parties will void your warranty.

Freight charges to the point of purchase and the cost of any repairs resulting from damages occurring during this freighting will be borne by the owner.

To ensure fast efficient handling of any warranty claims, please complete and return your reply paid warranty card within 30 days from date of purchase.

If service is required, please return your inverter in its original carton with proof of purchase and a brief description of the fault, to your point of service or any of the following service centres:

Selectronic Australia  
25 Holloway Drive  
Bayswater  
Victoria 3153  
Australia  
PH 03 9762-4822

Burley TV Service  
278 Edmondson Ave  
Austral  
NSW 2171  
Australia  
02 606-0279

Reid Technology Ltd.  
3-5 Auburn Street  
Takapuna  
North Shore City  
Auckland NZ  
9 489-8585