

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - #A001
SUBJECT: STROBE POWER PACK –
ALTERNATE INPUT CONNECTION
Effective Date: 1/28/00 Revised 8/10/05

Some school bus eight-lamp Flashers lose their ability to supply at least +12v at ~2A current draw in extreme cold environments. This may cause the Strobe Power Pack to flash sporadically or not flash at all. When the bus is driven into a garage or the outside temperature rises, the eight-lamp flasher is better able to supply the +12V at ~2A power to the system and thus the Strobes will work fine.

An alternate method to wire the Strobe Power Pack is to use the ‘Stop Arm Solenoid’ terminal on the flasher to operate a separate relay supplying power to the Strobe Power Pack. This relay modification brings power in directly from a known 12V source: the battery, and uses the ‘Stop Arm Solenoid’ output terminal to energize the coil of the relay, which is significantly less load on the flasher circuit. (see diagram below)

It is highly recommended that the 12V source utilized will be directly from the battery and not another 12V circuit that uses the same battery power. This will ensure that no additional loads may cause the voltage to drop. Utilizing the battery as the 12V source ensures that the voltage output from the battery will be the voltage input to the strobe power pack.

Note: Measure the battery voltage while the bus is running and compare this with the voltage at the power pack when it’s energized (strobe lights on). The reading should be within approximately ½ volt of battery voltage. (check input voltage at the power pack- it is the red wire to the blade fuse on the outside of the black plastic power pack box.)

WARNING!! Do NOT measure OUTPUT voltage to Xenon bulbs!
It is high voltage and could cause injury!

If further help is needed, contact the Engineering department at Specialty Manufacturing Company.

