

## **Make \$2200 Solar Generator for \$250!**

The advertisement said I could get an 1800-watt Solar Generator for \$2200 (plus \$149 shipping). In an emergency I'd have electrical power! It reads as if I'd have 1800 watts continuously available - power my lights, TV, and even the refrigerator! That sounds too good to be true for \$2200! **And it is.**

Where does that 1800 watts in the ad come from? It has a 60 amp hour battery. Amps X volts = watts; 60 amps X 12 volts = 720 watts in the battery. That's not it. Oh, the 1800 watt inverter! With 720 watts available, an 1800 watt inverter is good only for advertising. If you plugged 1800 watts worth of lights, TV, fans, etc., into the 1800-watt inverter, the battery would last 24 minutes.

For \$250 you can make your own solar generator. Get a few solar panels with a charge controller, \$150. Add a marine deep cycle battery for \$65. Add a 100- or 120-watt inverter for \$35. There's your solar generator.

So how well would it work? With a 120-watt inverter, you could run two (2) 60-watt light bulbs or nine (9) 13-watt compact fluorescents for 3 hours. This takes your battery down to 30% discharged, and you can recharge it indefinitely. You could run the lights for 5 hours, with a 50% discharged battery. Do that several times, and you've got a permanently dead battery.

The solar panels can charge it up tomorrow, though - right? Nope! Let's say your solar panels are rated at 45 watts. They should produce 45 watts per hour, but you'll probably get less - say, 75% to 85% of what's rated. Solar panels need sunlight, and depending on how far north or south you live, you might get 4 to 6 hours of useful sunlight per day. Let's say your solar panels produce 38 watts for 5 hours - that's 190 watts coming in. But you used 360 to 600 watts. It will take two (2) days to replace the 360 watts and more than 3 days to replace the 600 watts. You'd need twice or three times the power your solar panels produce to recharge the battery overnight! So, buy two or three sets of solar panels, not just one set.

By now you're thinking that this is a pretty expensive way to get 360 - 600 watts of power for 3 hours of use. That is true. However, by doing it yourself, it will cost you 1/8th of the retail product price (which borders on being a scam).

Now, go to these two DisasterGuy Tips and combine them to make your own Solar Generator:

- Solar Power for Emergency Use!
- Emergency Power from a 12-volt Inverter!