

The Problem

The easiest place to get power for your rig is from the “Cigarette Lighter” outlet. In years past, these were a no-no as a power point. I’m sure you have used them - you know who you are! Times have changed and so have these sockets.

I have run into a problem twice now using this type of power connection; the problem is clear and correctable. Most recently, it manifested itself in the Jeep due to the Jeep’s ride.

Here are the two types that, in my experience, are a problem:



These are both very good quality units, however, they both have a very strong spring in the nose. The spring tension is so strong that it will push the plug out of the socket especially when the vehicle is on a bumpy road or has a stiff suspension (Jeep). When this happens, the point of contact between the plug’s nose and the positive terminal in the socket becomes high resistance and heats up. I melted one similar to the one on the right. More recently, I damaged the positive contact in the Jeep.

This is not so noticeable with lower power radios, but a lot of heat is created on 75 to 100 Watt rigs. Even with the lower power rigs, you are losing voltage which reduces the power output.

The Solution

Simple; cut off some of the spring. Leave enough tension to make a good contact but not enough tension to push the plug out of the socket.