

Glossary Of Electrical Terms

ammeter- instrument used to measure electrical current flow in a circuit.

Ampere(Amp)- unit for measuring electrical current.

analog- a non- digital measuring method that uses a needle to indicate readings.

arcing- electrical energy jumping across a gap.

ballast resistor- resistor in the primary side of the ignition system which is used to reduce voltage by approx. 4-5 volts.

battery cell- the part of a storage battery made from two dissimilar metals and an acid solution. A cell stores the chemical energy to be used later as electrical energy.

capacitor- device for holding/storing a surge of current.

current- the number of electrons flowing past a given point in a given amount of time.

diode- a simple semiconductor that permits flow of electricity in one direction but not the other.

ground- negatively charged side of a circuit; can be a wire, negative side of a battery, or vehicle chassis.

multimeter- a tool that combines the functions of a voltmeter, ohmmeter and ammeter into one diagnostic tool.

Ohm- a unit of measured electrical resistance.

Ohm's Law- expresses the relationship between current, resistance and voltage in any electrical circuit. Ohm's Law states that the voltage in a circuit is equal to the current multiplied by the resistance.

open circuit- an electrical circuit that has a break in the wire.

parallel circuit- a circuit with more than one path for the current to follow.

primary circuit- the low-voltage circuit of an ignition system

resistance- the opposition offered by a substance or body to the passage of electrical current thru it.

splice- to join electrical wires by soldering or by using crimp connectors.

volt- unit of electromotive force. One volt of electromotive force applied steadily to a conductor of one ohm resistance produces a current of one ampere.

voltage drop- voltage lost by the passage of electrical current through resistance.

voltmeter- a tool used to measure the voltage available at any point in an electrical system.