

*innovatronix*

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**EXPLORER XT3**  
User's Guide

## **Foreword** ▶▶▶

### *Congratulations on your purchase of the Tronix Explorer XT3!*

The technically superior Tronix Explorer XT3, rated at 800 Watts continuous and at 2400 Watts peak power, is designed to provide power to most flash and power pack units. It makes your studio lights work on location - with faster recycling time, more power and better performance.

- **Power and Reliability**  
2400 Watts peak power  
Provides a clean sine wave from a 24 V DC source  
Efficient circuit design that generates almost a thousand full power pops for 300 Ws flash units
- **Flexibility and Mobility**  
Auto-volt/Global charging feature (100 V - 240 V AC, 50/60 Hz)  
14 V DC car battery charger and Auxiliary Battery port for 24 V external battery pack  
Added mobility with the Tronix Explorer bag (optional)  
It can also be used for powering battery chargers, laptops, printers, etc.
- **Safe and Easy to Use**  
Plug and play  
Battery power and charging indicators  
Switch over from battery to external battery pack

## **Warranty Statement** ▶▶▶

The Tronix Explorer XT3 is covered by a one-year warranty starting from the date of purchase. From that date, the product should be free of any defect in material and workmanship and it will function in accordance to its stated performance.

Within this period, Innovatronix Inc. will repair or replace defective parts. This warranty only covers failures due to manufacturing defects and workmanship. Hence, breakdown of Explorer XT3 due to gross abuse and normal wear and tear is not covered in this warranty.

There are no warranties by use except as stated therein. For unsafe and/or faulty repairs, Innovatronix Inc. and/or sellers shall not be liable by such cases. Any alternation made to this product by unauthorized service technicians are the sole responsibility of the owner. Maximum liability for any breach of this agreement or other claim to the use of this product shall not exceed the purchase price of the product by the customer.

Warranty registration is not required. Warranty is applicable if and only if the product is used under normal conditions and for its intended purpose.

### **IMPORTANT!**

#### ***Limited Warranty on SLA (Sealed-Lead Acid) Batteries***

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Only items with manufacturing defects should be returned for repair, replacement or refund. If the product returned was found opened, altered or modified in any way, the product warranty is voided.

SLA battery set is not included in the warranty. Battery performance depends on charge discharge cycle under the customer's use. In addition, SLA batteries must be properly maintained by keeping it charged or charging every after usage. Otherwise, if the battery gets dried up, or diminished, hence the product warranty on battery is voided.

Product returns and/or refund policies may differ on every vendor. Contact your vendor for their customer satisfaction guarantee and warranty programs.

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# Important Safety Instructions ►►►

Save this User's Guide. Contents of this User's Guide should be followed during installation, operation and maintenance of Explorer XT3.

## General Safety

- Do not expose Explorer XT3 to dust, moisture, liquids, rain or snow.
- Do not block ventilation openings of Explorer XT3. Overheating may occur.
- Do not place Explorer XT3 in a compartment with zero clearance.
- Not recommended attachments, when used with Explorer XT3, may result in risk of fire, electrical hazard or injury.
- Periodically observe the status of the LED indicators to ensure that Explorer XT3 works as intended.

## Electrical Safety

- Always connect Explorer XT3 to a grounded outlet. The outlet to which Explorer XT3 is connected must be in close proximity and must be easily accessed.
- Flash units and other supported equipment must be properly connected to Tronix Explorer XT3. Secure working connection and socket from outlet to the inverter.
- Before doing any maintenance, always switch off and unplug all attachments connected to Explorer XT3.
- Explorer XT3 incorporates multiple power sources. Connect only one of these sources at a time.
- Though not posing any risk, simultaneous connection of any of these sources is not recommended. Disconnect all power cords to completely remove power from the unit.
- If the external flexible cord of the unit is damaged, it shall be replaced by a cord available from the manufacturer.

## Battery Safety

### Warning!

Contains potentially hazardous voltage.

Do not make any changes or modifications to Explorer XT3 unless otherwise specified. Explorer XT3 has no user-serviceable parts.

- **Caution:** Do not place the battery near open flame or heat. The battery may explode.
- **Caution:** Do not open the battery. The battery contains chemicals that are harmful to the skin and eyes. May also emit dangerous and explosive gases.
- **Caution:** To avoid injury due to electrical hazard, remove metal accessories such as wristwatch and jewelry when replacing the battery. Use properly insulated tools and handles.
- **Caution:** Explorer XT3 uses 12 V DC, 9 Ah valve-regulated sealed lead-acid (VRSLA) battery cells, replace battery with the same type as originally installed in Explorer XT3.
- **Caution:** Observe proper polarity when connecting the batteries. Incorrect polarity may cause electrical hazards or damage to Explorer XT3.

*Dispose replaced batteries properly. Deliver the battery to its manufacturer for recycling.*

### Important!

**Innovatronix Inc. does not recommend Explorer XT3 for use in life support equipment, where malfunction of the product will significantly degrade effectiveness of such equipment.**

**Examples of life support equipment are, but not limited to, the following: pacemakers, blood pumps, ventilators and dialysis systems.**

## Getting Started ▶▶▶

### What's in the box?\*

- 1 x Tronix Explorer XT3 Main Inverter unit
- 1 x Power Cord
- 1 x Universal Adapter (only for 115 – 60 models)
- 1 x Car Battery Charger
- 1 x Carrying Case
- 1x Tronix Explorer XT3 User's Manual

\*Contact Tronix customer care service (or seller) if package is deemed incomplete.

## Installation ▶▶▶

1. Switch off Explorer XT3.
2. On the rear panel, plug the power cord to a 100 V to 240 V main outlet.

Ensure power in the main outlet. The **green** charging LED indicator should blink. This indicates that Explorer XT3 is charging.

If Explorer XT3 is being charged the first time, charge the unit for 12 to 15 hours. This ensures optimum battery performance. Succeeding charges would only take 9 to 12 hours.

**Note:** The main outlet to which Explorer XT3 is connected must be in close proximity and must be easily accessed.

Explorer XT3 has the following power sources: AC mains outlet, car battery input and auxiliary battery. Only connect one of these sources at a time. Simultaneous connections of any of these inputs are not recommended. If Explorer XT3 still does not charge, contact Tronix Customer Service (see Contact Information)

## Operation ▶▶▶

1. Charge Explorer XT3 as instructed in Installation.
2. Set up the necessary lighting equipment. Ensure that Explorer XT3 is turned off.
3. On the front panel, connect the plug of the flash unit to one of the sockets of Explorer XT3. For 115-60 models, a universal adapter is supplied.

**Note:** The connections between the flash units and Explorer XT3 must be in close proximity and must be easily accessed.

4. Switch on Explorer XT3. The battery level indicators (green for high, yellow for mid and red for low) indicate the amount of power left in the battery. Explorer XT3 is now supplying power to the flash units.
5. Test the flash units. If the desired lighting requirements are set, proceed with the photo shoot.
6. To conserve battery, switch off Explorer XT3 when the flash units are not in use.

**Note:** Using modeling lamps in flash units will prolong recycling time and will quickly discharge the battery. Therefore, it is advisable not to use modeling lights when Explorer XT3 is the power source.

Below is a table of the status LEDs of Explorer XT3 and its corresponding indication:

Status	Indication
Charging	Green Charging LED indicator is blinking
Battery full	Green High LED indicator is lit
Battery at half power	Yellow Mid LED indicator is lit
Battery low	Red Low LED indicator is lit

Aside from its normal use of powering strobes and flashes, the battery of Explorer XT3 will be discharged if any of the following occurs:

- Explorer XT3 is switched on at no load. The battery of Explorer XT3 will be discharged after ~ 9 hours.
- Explorer XT3 is switched off at no load. The battery of Explorer XT3 will be discharged after 200 days. Thus, when not in use, it is recommended that Explorer XT3 should be plugged in to a 100 V to 240 V AC main outlet or to a 14 V DC outlet.
- Even when switched off, the internal circuit of Explorer XT3 still consumes power. A totally discharged battery will severely affect its useful life.

Should Explorer XT3 run out of power and no power source is present, the Tronix Auxiliary Battery Pack can be connected to Explorer XT3. When the Auxiliary Battery Pack is connected, Explorer XT3 bypasses its internal battery and draws power from the battery pack. Tronix Auxiliary Battery Pack is sold separately. More information can be obtained from the Innovatronix website (see Contact Information).



## Charging ▶▶▶

1. Switch off Explorer XT3.
2. Explorer XT3 can be charged through the following methods:
  - Main Supply
    - Plug the power cord to a 100 V to 240 V AC main outlet. (see Installation)
    - Except for the initial charging, Explorer XT3 should be fully charged after 9 to 12 hours.
    - When the green Charging LED indicator stopped blinking (LED stays on), the battery is fully charged.
  - 14V DC Outlet
    - Plug Explorer XT3 to a 14 V DC outlet. A car cigarette lighter socket would be an example. Use the appropriate adapter.
    - Note that Explorer XT3 can not be fully charged when this method is used.

**Tip:** You can leave Explorer XT3 plugged in even after it is fully charged. Explorer XT3 uses trickle charging method. If the cord is still plugged after the battery reached full charge, the battery will not be damaged in any way. Trickle charging also maintains the battery's optimum life span.

When the unit is accidentally discharged in full (unit was left-on for a long time even after low battery shut down), slight abnormality may be observed when trying to recharge the unit.

When charged, unit may falsely show that battery is full. Just repeatedly plug and unplug the unit every 30 minutes until battery recovers and the indicator starts to blink.

## Maintenance ▶▶▶

- For optimum performance, keep the battery fully charged.
- Switch off the unit when not in use. Leaving Explorer XT3 on when not in use will severely drain the battery.
- Use a dry cloth when cleaning the unit. Do not use any liquids or detergent.
- Coil cables when not in use. Loose cables may cause accidents.

## Battery Replacement ►►►



### Caution!

Risk of electric shock. Extreme caution should be observed at all times. Before replacing the batteries, disconnect all cords and wait 30 minutes before proceeding with the repair. Remove all metal objects attached to the body such as jewelry, wristwatch, and the like. Use properly insulated tools and handles. Strictly follow the instructions to avoid further damage and injury.

1. Switch off the unit.
2. Remove the screws of the plastic add on and the unscrew the bolts of the unit.
3. Carefully disconnect the battery terminals located on the boost converter.
4. Disconnect the battery converter side found on the charger board to avoid short circuit.
5. Remove the charger board.
6. Remove the screws found in the battery bracket and battery casing.
7. Remove the battery bracket and the battery at the same time.
8. Turn the unit to the other side and remove the boost converter board.
9. Remove the screws and pull out the battery out of the casing.
10. Securely place the battery by sliding it to the battery casing. Tighten the screws and reinstall the boost converter board.
11. Turn to the other side and make sure to place the batteries inside the metal closure first. Reinsert the battery screws and reinstall the charger board before connecting the battery terminals and conductor.

Note: Ensure that the battery terminals do not touch the heat sink. For safety, cover the area of the heat sink where the battery terminals will pass during battery replacement.

12. Reinsert cover and tighten all screws.

Dispose replaced batteries properly. Deliver the battery to its manufacturer for recycling or observe proper battery disposal.

### Note:

Ensure the battery terminals do not touch the heat sink. For safety, cover the area of the heat sink where the battery terminals will pass during battery replacement.

Do not interchange the polarity of the wires. Black wire is for the negative (–) terminal and red wire is for the positive (+) terminal.

## Troubleshooting ▶▶▶

Refer to the table to address minor problems regarding installation and operation of Explorer XT3. For other problems, contact Tronix Customer Service (see Contact Information).

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Possible Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Battery Not Charging	Not plugged from supply	Plug Explorer XT3 to a 100 V to 240 V AC outlet or to a 14V DC supply
	No power from outlet	Ensure power in the main outlet. If Explorer XT3 still does not charge, contact Tronix' Customer Care Service (See contact information)
Lighting equipment not working	Battery not charged	Plug Explorer XT3 to a 100 V to 240 V AC outlet or to a 14V DC supply
	Lighting equipment malfunction	Contact manufacturer of lighting equipment
	Incompatible equipment	Lighting equipment not compatible with Explorer XT3 (see Compatibility Chart for compatible equipment)
Battery draining fast	Battery not fully charged	Charge battery for 3 to 5 hours (12 to 15 hours if charging for the first time)
	Modeling lamps in flash units	Modeling lamps, when used with flash units, drains the battery faster. It is not advised to use modeling lamps with Explorer XT3 as power source
	Battery nearing end of its useful life	Battery performance decreases with time. Also, batteries age prematurely when placed in places with high temperatures. Replace battery. See Battery Replacement

## Frequently Asked Questions ▶▶▶

### ***There are 2 models. How do I know which one will I need?***

The model denotes the voltage output of the Tronix Explorer XT3. Select the model which matches the input voltage of your studio lights or power packs. For example:

- The Tronix Explorer XT3 115-60 models are used by photographers in North America (United States and Canada).
- The Tronix Explorer XT3 230-50 models are used by photographers in Europe, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and the rest of Asia.

### ***How do I know if my strobe or power pack is compatible with Tronix Explorer XT3? Why not all strobes and power packs are compatible with Tronix Explorer XT3?***

Tronix Explorer XT3 is compatible to more digital strobes due to its increased power rating. The newer Tronix Explorer XT3 is compatible to digital and most bi-voltage flash units. However, compatibility to all strobes and power packs is not guaranteed due to differences in design of strobes and power packs between brands. In a few cases, digitally controlled strobes will not be compatible with Tronix Explorer XT3. This is because after a flash is fired, the capacitors inside the strobe will draw a large inrush current. Tronix Explorer XT3 cannot adequately provide such current. Thus, for a few seconds, the voltage output will be less than adequate. This is not a problem for analog flash, however. Analog flash can tolerate this voltage drop. For digital flash units, this will probably cause a reset of its settings to power up stage. Though this case is not damaging to the flash or Tronix Explorer XT3, the flash will just not work properly.

### ***How do I charge the Tronix Explorer XT3?***

There are two ways to charge Tronix Explorer XT3:

- Main outlet, 100 to 240 V AC. For a fully discharged battery, except for the initial charging, charging can take about 3 to 5 hours.
- Car Battery. Plug the Tronix Explorer XT3 to the car cigarette jack through the 14 V DC jack located at the rear panel of Explorer XT3.




### ***How many pops can I expect with one full charge?***

The number of pops will depend on the type of flash unit and the power loaded to Explorer XT3. Small loads will produce greater number of pops and faster recycling time compared to large power loads. In addition, modeling lights should be switched off as continuous load drains the battery at a higher rate. It should also be recharged after each use and should not be kept stored for more than 3 months without using or charging. Similar to other products that use lead-acid batteries, a discharged battery for a few months will severely affect its performance and lifetime.

### ***What is the expected life span of the Explorer battery? How much would be the replacement battery?***

Tronix Explorer XT3's batteries are rated at 300 charge-discharge cycles or about a year of everyday use or the battery's actual usage. Should the batteries be needed to be replaced, use only batteries provided by Tronix or with the same specification (see Technical Specifications). Tronix Explorer XT3 uses two 12 V, 9 Ah Valve-regulated lead-acid batteries. Other batteries may not be suitable to Tronix Explorer XT3 and may cause electrical hazard or injury.

## Technical Specifications ▶▶▶

Feature	Specifications	
Model	115 V – 60 Hz	230 V – 50 Hz
<b>Output</b>		
Power	1000 VA 800 W max. at 0.8 pf	
Voltage	115 V ~	230 V ~
Frequency	60 Hz	50 Hz
Current	6.9 A	3.4 A
Waveform	Pure Sine Wave	
Sockets	NEMA 5	Schuko / Universal
<b>Input</b>		
AC Input		
Voltage	100 V – 240 V ~	
Frequency	50 / 60 Hz	
Current	460 – 220 mA (drained battery) 40 – 20 mA (full battery)	
Connector	IEC C14	
<b>Auxiliary Battery</b>		
Voltage	24 – 28 V 	
Current	40 A at 85% efficiency	
Connector	Neutrik powerCON NAC3MPA	
<b>DC Input</b>		
Voltage	12 – 14 V 	
Current	500 mA	
Connector	Coaxial	
<b>Battery</b>		
Type	Maintenance-free, Valve regulated lead acid (x2)	
Voltage	12 V  (per battery)	
Capacity	9 Ah (per battery)	
Charging Time	9 – 12 hours	
Runtime	~ 9 hours at no load	
<b>Indicators</b>		
Visual	Green, yellow and red for battery status; Green LED for charging status	
<b>Physical</b>		
Dimensions	15 cm. x 20 cm. x 37cm.	
Net Weight	10.5 kg	
Operating Temperature	-15 °C – 70 °C (5 °F – 158 °F)	



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