

32 Optima Prime

Optima's Absorbent Glass-Mat batteries (www.optimabatteries.com) are almost ideal for collector and performance cars ...

except in one respect. If they get deeply discharged (below 10.5 volts) few battery chargers



will properly recharge them, even though they're fine. If you don't have a charger with an AGM setting on it, you can try this: hook up a good lead-acid battery and your Optima battery in parallel (+ to +; - to -) using jumper cables, then connect the charger to the lead-acid battery. Your charger should see the proper voltage in the lead-acid battery and realize it can "top it off". After an hour, check your Optima battery to make sure it's not hot (warm is ok) or "gassing"; if so, stop charging immediately, as your battery may, in fact, be bad. Also check the voltage on the Optima battery; if it's over 10.5, you should be able to charge it directly. If not, let it go in parallel for another hour and re-check it until it goes above 10.5, at which time you can hook it up directly to the charger.