

Using Uninterrupted Power Systems (UPS) on Clippers

Some of the newer clippers have an electronic circuit board in them that converts the voltage to run the clipper motor. The problem with these boards is they can "burn out" from poor electrical power from a generator, inverter, and even from the power company itself.

I am sure you all have heard the term "brown out" used during the summer especially. This is where the power line voltage is lower than the normal, which then makes your household voltage lower than the normal 120volts at the wall outlets. Another condition is where the voltage gets above 120 volts and when this happens light bulbs will burn out faster and can affect motors too.

Here are some questions to ask yourself to see if you need a UPS:

- 1) Have you ever plugged in your clipper and it ran faster/slower than normal?
- 2) When you turn on the dryer, does your clipper slow down?
- 3) When the air conditioning turns on do the lights dim?
- 4) Do you use power strips and is the dryer plugged into it or on the same circuit as the clippers?
- 5) Are your clippers burning out in a year or less?
- 6) Do you travel to dog shows or other facilities and use your clippers there?

If you can answer yes to any of these clippers then you need a UPS.

Now what is a UPS? It is a device that regulates the incoming power and keeps it at a normal 120-volt level so your equipment runs like it should. Some have a battery back up to keep a piece of equipment running if power is lost until it can be shut down, a computer is the best example of this. Some have alarms on them telling you of power that is too high or low, or a wall outlet problem.

How will this help your clippers from burning up due to power issues? When a high amperage device like a dryer, furnace, AC unit turn on it creates a "spike" in the line voltage of your shop or home. Usually this is not a problem, but if the voltage is already low or high it can send a surge into your clipper and "pop" one of the electronic components, resulting in a high dollar repair. I was at a 4H show and had 4 clippers come in from one barn with burned out armatures (cost \$40-60), I took my meter over to that barn and monitored the voltage and you could see the spikes caused from all the dryers being turned on/off. A UPS would off helped prevent this condition from burning out the clippers.

The size UPS you need is about 120 Watts, unless you are running multiple clippers on it then you have to get the total wattage you could use by checking the clipper for its wattage. General rule is Oster A-5's are 45 watt, Andis is 25 watt and Wahl is 20 watt, Oster Stewart clipper is 100 watts. Check with your sharpener or manufacturer if you are not sure or can't find the wattage.

To use the UPS you follow the setup instructions in the owner's manual for battery connection and any other special setup instructions. Then just plug the unit into the wall and the clipper into the outlet on the UPS. That's it and you are protecting your equipment better and helping it last longer. This is a small investment that will save you many costly clipper repairs from poor electricity in your shop.



APC 350VA/200watt battery backup. Cost is about \$40.00