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DC controller burned up

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03-29-2008, 07:46 AM

#1 ([permalink](#))

Scuba-Matt

THUNDER BOLT
Paid Member



Join Date: Jun 2005
 Location: South East Florida
 Posts: 3,128
 NLOC member #: 2117
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DC controller burned up

I was sitting on the patio and I hear the fans start to run on the Lightning. Went to see what was up and a cloud of smoke was coming from under the hood. I ran to get a 8mm wrench to pull the battery cable and save the L from fire. I pulled the DC controller, it looks like it must of shorted out form the inside, all the plastic and what ever else melted out through the metal exterior box. The DC controller was installed for a year and a half. It was wired according to the directions and it never gave me a bit of trouble until now.

04 DSG #53/3781 , Just a few mod's 11.65 @116
**2007 Moroso Truck Series Champion**.....

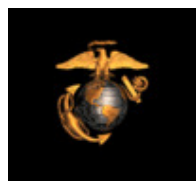


03-29-2008, 07:56 AM

#2 (permalink)

[throttle jockey](#)

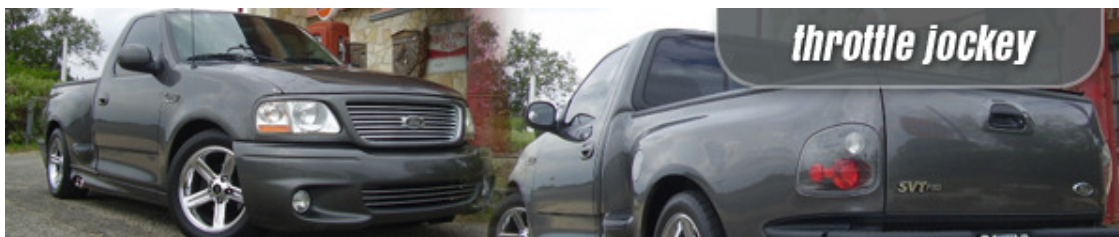
* Gunnin' for 11s *



Join Date: Jan 2007
 Location: San Antonio, TX
 Posts: 1,540
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Glad to hear you caught it before it could get serious. The VSC for my Flex-A-Lite e-fans did the same thing in April 07. I replaced it with the newer "updated" version, but about a month ago it started to act up also. What's the deal with these fan relays crapping out 🤖?

#4162 of 4270 - BUILT 19 JUNE 2003



12.178 @ 113.69 MPH (NO ICING)



03-29-2008, 07:56 AM

#3 (permalink)

[pedro](#)

Registered User



Join Date: Apr 2006
 Location: Richmond, Virginia
 Posts: 6,588
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 iTrader: [12](#) / 100%

🤖 Good thing you weren't inside asleep.



08-14-2008, 10:06 AM

#4 (permalink)

[35thPony](#)

Instinct > iPhone

I just diagnosed my DC Control as burned up after a year... Anyone have the contact e-mail address and know if they sell just the box or can repair the existing box?



Join Date: Jul 2004
 Location: Raleigh, NC
 Posts: 4,523
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 iTrader: [13](#) / 100%



AVT Performance / Fastlane Motorsports
T76 Gen 2 Lightning



08-14-2008, 10:10 AM

#5 (permalink)

[Tim Skelton](#)

El Jefe



Join Date: May 2002
 Location: People's Republic of Los Angeles
 Posts: 5,297
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 iTrader: [6](#) / 100%

support@dcccontrol.com



08-14-2008, 10:14 AM

#6 (permalink)

[35thPony](#)

Instinct > iPhone



Join Date: Jul 2004
 Location: Raleigh, NC
 Posts: 4,523
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 iTrader: [13](#) / 100%

thanks Tim



08-14-2008, 10:20 AM

#7 (permalink)

[sstock](#)

Student of Horsepower #2
 Paid Member

For the life of me, I dont know why you guys mess with these DC controller albatrosses. 😞



Join Date: Jan 2000
 Location: Washington State
 Posts: 9,540
 NLOC member #: 343
[View this user's gallery](#)
 iTrader: **14** / 100%



08-14-2008, 10:33 AM

#8 (permalink)

35thPony

Instinct > iPhone



Join Date: Jul 2004
 Location: Raleigh, NC
 Posts: 4,523
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 iTrader: **13** / 100%



I was going to just get rid of it, but It will cost me about \$150 to pay someone to rewire it all up with two relays and a temp probe. I am hoping I can get my box repaired and not have install costs... Just transfer the box out and run... I guess thats why I'm checking with dccontrol to see the cost of fixing or getting a new box.



08-14-2008, 12:34 PM

#9 (permalink)

AZlightning

Registered User

Join Date: Apr 2003
 Posts: 650
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 iTrader: **7** / 100%



You guys are lucky I have been through four VSC controllers including the updated versions with my flexalite. I just wired it to make it completely manual with a flip of a switch. So now my fans have one speed, high, and I controll when the fans come on. I gave up on trying any kind of controller.



08-14-2008, 12:38 PM

#10 (permalink)

fla01lightning

Registered User
 Paid Member



Join Date: Jul 2004
 Location: lecanto ,florida
 Posts: 3,130
 NLOC member #: 1687
[View this user's gallery](#)
 iTrader: **0** / 0%



Have you guys looked into the Spal fan controller? It looks like decent unit. And if it were me I would spend the cash and get the best possible controller I could find for something as critical as fans. Not to mention the possible fire hazard



08-14-2008, 01:45 PM

#11 (permalink)

[Eds01Lightning](#)

Registered User



Join Date: Mar 2003
 Location: Metro Atlanta
 Posts: 2,328
[View this user's gallery](#)
 iTrader: [1](#) / 100%



My controller went out 2 weeks ago when I saw smoke coming out from under the hood. I happened to be in the driveway at the time. This was the second....and last time for me as the next morning I put my mechanical fan back on. **** efans! I'll just stick with the stock one! 😞

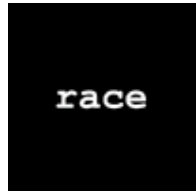


08-14-2008, 02:00 PM

#12 (permalink)

[Tim Skelton](#)

El Jefe



Join Date: May 2002
 Location: People's Republic of Los Angeles
 Posts: 5,297
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 iTrader: [6](#) / 100%



As mentioned in a post above, all of the fan controllers seem to have issues.

The DC Controls is the most intelligent design of them all. Unfortunately, it is not as reliable as their literature would lead one to believe.

Perhaps a contributing factor to these failures is that many people use the dual F-A-L fans, which have a really high amp draw.



08-14-2008, 02:14 PM

#13 (permalink)

[35thPony](#)

Instinct > iPhone



Join Date: Jul 2004
 Location: Raleigh, NC
 Posts: 4,523
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 iTrader: [13](#) / 100%



I can't use mechanical fan with my turbo set up... They have to be push fans... So I am running two push fans... I am emailing Brian back and forth and I'll see what I come up with...



08-20-2008, 12:13 AM


#14 (permalink)

[baskin](#)

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007
 Posts: 10
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 iTrader: [0](#) / 0%

Quote:

Originally Posted by [35thPony](#) 
I just diagnosed my DC Control as burned up after a year... Anyone have the contact e-mail address and know if they sell just the box or can repair the existing box?

I think it would have been reasonable to state here what you stated in the email, that you had a burned connector at the fan and another overheated one going to the controller, and that the problem isn't that it's burned up, but that it's simply not working and that you took it off of the truck before finding out why.

With regard to this thread, see below:

In the first thread, the moderator connects the spal controller, sparks come out, and it catches on fire (I've never seen sparks come out of a solid state device since they're hermetically sealed) He says he is going to call his friend "scuba-matt". According to him, the spal controller was "shot", but scuba-matt saved the day with his flex-a-lite controller.

http://www.dcccontrol.com/SPAL_contro...e_check_in.pdf
http://www.dcccontrol.com/SPAL_contro...n - Page 2.pdf

In the second thread, someone asks if there is a replacement for their failed flex-a-lite controller, he either wants to buy a DCC or a spal. Scuba-matt claims that I'm out of business, you'll find that most all of the threads stating that here lead back to him. He also claims that you need two spal controllers to run the fan. (not true) When someone argues that point, he claims that he tried the moderator's spal both ways and that it didn't work.

"We hooked it up with the relay for the second fan and it still over heated the controller."

"We installed a relay and it didn't matter. The controller couldn't handle one fan running at full voltage without the controller getting really hot.

When I talked to the Spal rep he said the control was rated at 20 amps. Now they tell another customer there rated higher. I hate to see him waste money on a controller that won't work with the big Flex-lite fans. But it his money and I'm done explaining my experience with the Spal unit."

"I would try the FAL"

I've never heard of spal telling anyone that, why would they? He sure seems hell-bent on eliminating the competition doesn't he?

But wait, didn't the moderator say that sparks came out and the spal controller caught on fire before he even called scuba-matt? Reread the first links and see.

[http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_\(1\).pdf](http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_(1).pdf)
[http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_\(2\).pdf](http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_(2).pdf)
[http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_\(3\).pdf](http://www.dcccontrol.com/I_have_a_qu...e_read_(3).pdf)

The thread you're in was posted verbatim by scuba-matt on several

other sites and has already been debated once here, when the moderator did more to verify what I was saying then provide a defense, he then deleted the first thread. The reality is that electronics don't fail in the way his friend claimed, when they're sitting there cold there is nothing happening, no expansion, no contraction, each moment just like the one before it, nothing's changing. But if you've already read about their spal ordeal, then that should pretty much be a moot point.

Whether you want to believe the two of them is up to you, all I can do is point you to the threads, and if you want to continue to hold membership here, that's fine also. But the way I see it, it's your posting here that brings in the advertisement for this site, that in turn provides a means for the moderator and his friend to do what they do, and at the end of the day supports my competitor in what seems to be a unique method of advertising.

My supporting anyone who posts here then supports that, and that clearly isn't in my best interest and it's most likely not in spals, so I doubt their interest in support would be any different. My suggestion would be to buy the flex-a-lite controller that the moderator and his friend recommend. Good luck guys.



08-20-2008, 12:24 AM

#15 (permalink)

baskin

Registered User

Join Date: Feb 2007

Posts: 10

[View this user's gallery](#)

iTrader: 0 / 0%



Oh, and moderator, I appreciate your changing my avatar, that was very mature and professional of you, but I decided to change it back, thanks anyway.



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