



## Owner's Guide

**HTS-300    HTS-600    HTS-1200**

**[www.tundrainternational.com](http://www.tundrainternational.com)**

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# 1 Introduction

Congratulations! You have purchased one of the most sophisticated and reliable power inverters on the market today. Incorporating some of the latest technological developments, it will give years of trouble free operation for your truck, boat, R.V. or other.

In order to get the most out of your inverter, the installation procedure must be followed carefully and it must also be properly used. Please thoroughly read this manual before installing and using your new inverter. **It is important to pay special attention to the CAUTION and WARNING statements in this manual as well as on the inverter.** Should the inverter be exposed to rain, moisture, or strong impact, have it inspected by a qualified technician before use.

**WARNING!**      **The electrical current at the entrance and exit of your inverter may cause severe personal injury; make certain that you have read and understand all the parts of this manual before installing and using your inverter.**

**WARNING!**      **The inverter produces an electrical current similar to that found in most North American homes, with all the accompanying dangers. Be sure to install the product out of the reach of children.**

## 1.1 Disclaimer

Electrical codes vary depending on location and the type of installation. Electrical installations must meet local and national wiring codes and should be performed by a qualified electrician.

The inverter's specifications are subject to change without notice.

## 1.2 Output waveform

The AC output of your inverter is regulated to 120 volts and its waveform is called a "Pure Sine Wave." It is a waveform identical to the sine waves delivered by utility power.

# 2 Front & rear panels

## FRONT PANEL

ON/OFF switch:      The ON/OFF switch turns the inverter's control circuit ON and OFF. **It does not disconnect power from the inverter; you must disconnect the AC (120 volts) and DC (12 volts) power before working on any circuits connected to the inverter.** When the switch is on but no power is being supplied to a load, the inverter draws less than 500 mA. This is a very low current draw but left in this state the inverter will eventually drain your batteries.

AC Outlets:      The maximum output of your inverter can go through any of the two AC outlets.

**CAUTION!**      **Leave in the OFF position during the installation.**

## REAR PANEL

Chassis ground screw:      The chassis ground screw must be properly connected to the chassis of your vehicle before operating the inverter.

Fan(s):      In order for the inverter to properly operate, the fan(s) opening must never be obstructed. Allow at least six inches of clearance around the inverter for airflow. All fans are thermostatic and operate upon the interior temperature of the inverter.

## 3 Permanent Installation

The use of the Tundra International installation kit is strongly recommended. This complete installation kit is custom designed to maximize performances. It has been developed to promote safe installation and to help eliminate the difficult task of identifying and shopping for the requisite materials in stores.

**CAUTION!** Before installation, make sure that the inverter is turned "OFF."

### 3.1 Recommended material

	HTS 300	HTS 600	HTS 1200
- Welding cable	Awg 10	Awg 6	Awg 2
- 6 Tin plated terminal lugs			
- PVC strain relief for flexible cable			
- DC fuse block			
- DC fuse	30A	60 A	125 A
- Plastic « loom » tubing			
- Red and black heat shrinkable tubing			
- Plastic cable ties			
- Clamps and bolts			
- Heavy duty AC power distribution center			

### 3.2 Recommended tools

- Hand held crimping tool for terminal lugs \* **Mandatory**
- Hollow punch or hole saw for metal
- Drill bit set for metal
- Screw driver set
- Open end wrench set
- Side cutters
- Power drill

### 3.3 Where to install

Your inverter should be installed in a location that meets the following requirements:

- Dry: Keep the inverter away from any water or moisture.
- Cool: Ambient air temperature should be between 32 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit (0 and 30° Celsius).
- Ventilated: Ensure that the unit is located in a well-ventilated compartment. At least 6 inches of clearance are required around the inverter for air flow. Verify that all ventilation openings on the unit (front and rear panels) are not obstructed.

**CAUTION!** To avoid fire hazards and/or overheating, do not cover or obstruct any ventilation openings. Do not install the inverter in a zero clearance compartment.

- Safe: Do not install the inverter in the same compartment as batteries, or in any compartment capable of storing flammable liquids (such as gasoline). Power inverters may produce sparks that can result in fire if exposed to flammable vapors.

**WARNING!** This equipment contains components that tend to produce arcs or sparks. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, do not install in a compartment containing batteries or flammable materials, or in a location that requires ignition protected equipment.

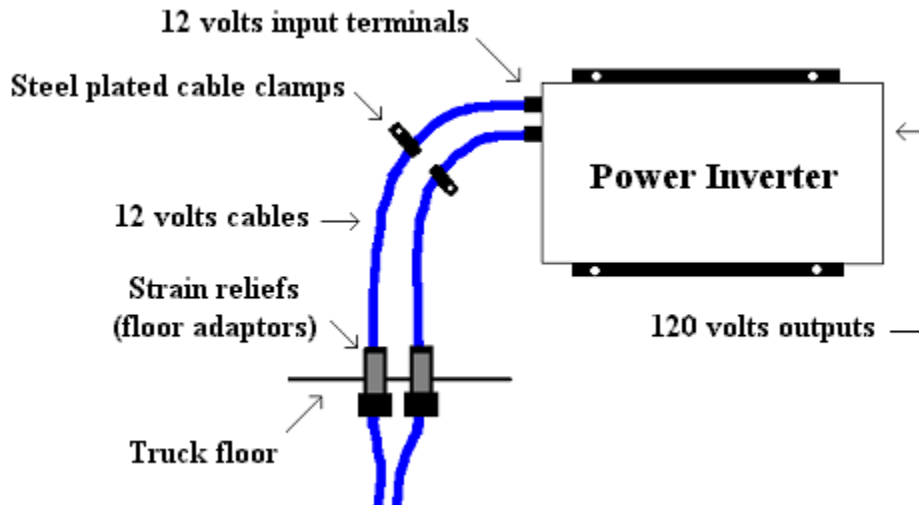
- Close to batteries: Install the inverter as close as possible to batteries (but not in the same compartment) in order to minimize the cable length required to connect the inverter to the batteries. It is better and cheaper to run longer AC wire (between the inverter and your appliances) than DC cables (between the inverter and the batteries).

### 3.4 Mounting the inverter

When you have decided where to place it, mount the inverter on a flat surface using the mounting flanges. Mounting hardware should be corrosion resistant, and 1/4" or larger. The inverter may be mounted horizontally on a vertical surface (the fans' opening must not point up or down) or on a horizontal surface. Upside down installation is not recommended, as it may put too much stress on the housing of your power inverter.

Close to the inverter, drill two holes in the truck's floor and install the two strain reliefs about 3 inches apart (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Installation schema**



### 3.5 Ground

The inverter has a lug on the rear panel that must be connected, using a #10 AWG copper cable, to the chassis of your vehicle or to a metallic panel connected to the chassis. This grounding procedure conforms to most electrical codes that require deriving AC sources to ground in case of malfunctioning. To make sure that you found a good grounding point, run a 12 volt test light from the positive terminal of your battery to your grounding point. If the light comes on, your installation is more than likely OK.

**WARNING! Do not operate the inverter if the ground screw of the inverter is not properly connected to the chassis of your vehicle, it may result in electrical shock hazard.**

### 3.6 Battery cables

Proper wiring is very important for safe and proper operation of the inverter. Since the inverter has a low voltage (12 volts) and a high current input, low resistance wiring and connections between the batteries and the inverter is essential in order to deliver the maximum amount of usable energy to your load. Don't waste the investment you have made in a highly efficient inverter by using cheap and undersized wires!

Use only covered, flexible, copper wires capable of withstanding temperatures in excess of 215° Fahrenheit. We recommend welding cable as the best size & type for connection between the batteries and your inverter. Keep the cable length as short as possible, no longer than 10 feet. This will ensure that the overall system efficiency is as high as possible, and will keep the voltage drop between the batteries and the inverter to a minimum. If the voltage drop is too excessive, the inverter may shut down.

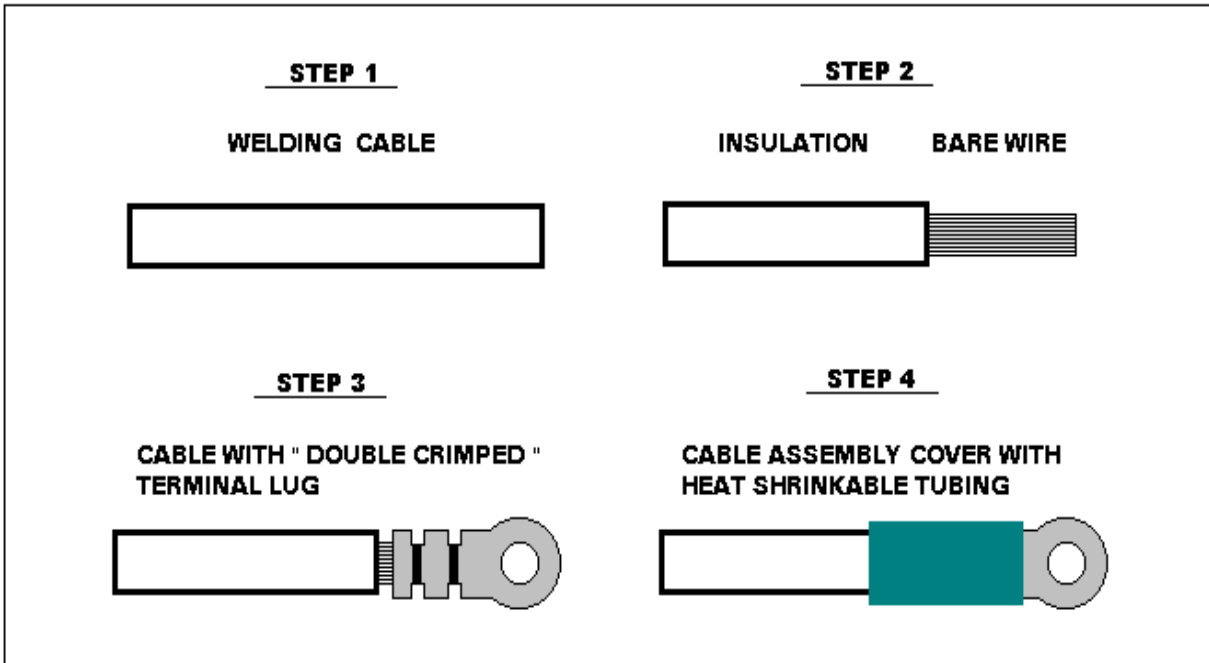
#### 3.6.1 Preparation of the cable connected to the "positive" end

Measure and cut the length of cable necessary to connect the positive (+) end of the battery to that of the inverter, not forgetting the length needed to allow movement due to the suspension of the cabin. The cable must be cut in two pieces, of which the small part must be six inches (Figure 5).

Strip a half-inch off each of the four cable ends, insert the longer section of the cable in a PVC strain relief, and install good quality tin plated terminal lugs on the bare wires. Crimp the terminals with a hand held crimping tool (the use of locked pliers (*Vice-Grip*) is not recommended), until the entire cable is crimped, and then cover each section of bared wire with good quality RED shrinkable tubing (Figure 4).

**CAUTION!** Do not solder the terminal lugs to cables. Solid and low resistance connections to the DC power source are essential in order to properly operate the inverter. The soldering cannot provide such connections.

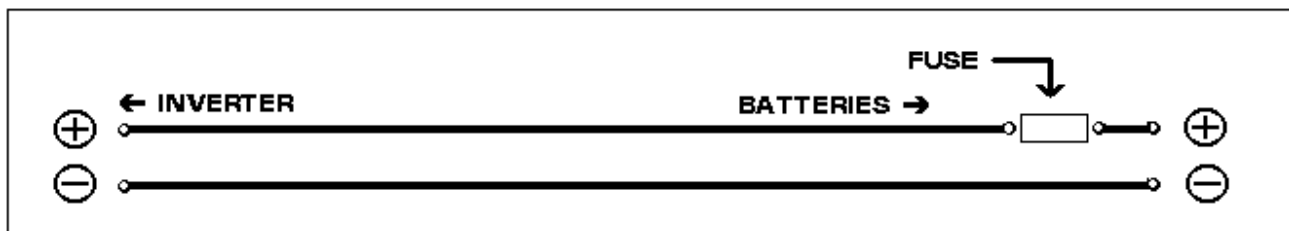
**Figure 4: Terminals' crimping procedure**



### 3.6.1.1 Fuse

A main fuse must be installed in the battery casing on the positive cable (+) between the batteries and the inverter, as close as possible to the batteries. In this way (and in the event of cable rupture), the DC current would be cut at the batteries and would not cause a fire.

**Figure 5: Fuse schema**



We recommend a fuse of type "CNL", mounted on a fuse holder, type "CNL." Plug one terminal of the small and the long cable's sections on the fuse holder, as illustrated in figure 5, and install the fuse. Without tightening them too much, the terminals must be solidly fixed onto the fuse holder, and must not be able to move around.

**CAUTION!** Not installing a fuse can result in fire that may cause severe injuries and/or damages.

### 3.6.2 Preparation of the cable connected to the negative side

Determine and cut the length of cable which you need to connect the negative side (-) of the battery to that of the inverter, without forgetting the necessary length to allow movements due to the suspension of the cabin. Strip approximately a half-inch of insulation from the two ends of the cable, insert the cable through the second PVC strain relief, and install good quality tin plated terminal lugs on the stripped sections. Crimp the terminals with a hand held crimping tool (the use of a locked plier (*Vice-Grip*) is not recommended) until the whole cable is crimped and then cover each section of stripped cable with good quality **BLACK** shrinkable tubing (refer to Figure 4).

### 3.7 Connecting the Inverter

The next step is to make sure that the inverter is turned OFF. Insert the rubber insulators (included with the inverter) on the terminal lugs and connect the cables (terminal lugs) to the inverter's DC input terminals: the terminal covered with the RED shrink tube to the positive (+) pole and the terminal covered with the BLACK shrink tube to the negative (-) pole. Make a secure connection using the nuts included with the inverter. The terminal must not move around on the DC terminal, but it must not be too tight either. The rubber insulators will protect the DC connections and will prevent the terminal from being touched by other metallic pieces.

<b>CAUTION!</b> <b>Never put a washer or a nut between the terminal lugs and the 12 volts DC input terminals; this results in poor conductivity and may cause the inverter to overheat and cause a fire.</b>
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Tighten the PVC strain relief nut on the cables until the rubber seal is properly compressed and the cables cannot move. Run the cables under your cab and cover them with plastic loom to prevent damage from road debris. Fasten both cables together every 4 inches with plastic cable ties; try to run both DC (12 volts) cables as close as possible together to reduce the risk of interference with your television or CB radio. While keeping in mind to allow cables to move with your cabin air suspension, secure the cables to the chassis from the cabin's floor to the batteries with several metallic clamps covered with rubber. These clamps will prevent the cables from being cut or damaged by the vehicle's vibrations.

### 3.8 Connection of the batteries

If you are working with a multiple battery bank, choose a battery with no accessory connected, as it will extend your battery's life. Before going further, it is important to correctly identify the cable connected to the positive terminal of the inverter, and the one connected to the negative terminal. **The cables must go from the positive terminal of the inverter to the positive terminal of the battery, and of the negative terminal of the inverter to the negative terminal of the battery. Incorrectly connecting the battery and inverter will damage your inverter permanently and is not covered by the warranty.** Always connect the positive terminals before the negative.

<b>CAUTION!</b> <b>Reversing the polarity when connecting the DC cables will permanently damage your inverter. <i>THIS IS NOT COVERED BY THE WARRANTY.</i></b>
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#### 3.8.1 Positive Terminal

Always connect the positive terminals before the negative. Plug the small section of the cable connected to the positive terminal of the inverter to the positive terminal of the battery, by solidly fixing the terminal with the nut. Without tightening them too much, the terminals must not be able to move around.

#### 3.8.2 Negative Terminal

The last step is to connect the cable between the negative terminal of the inverter to the negative terminal of the battery, by solidly fixing the terminal with the nut. Without tightening them too much, the terminals must not be able to move around.

<b>WARNING!</b> <b>You may observe a spark when making the cable connections since current may flow and charge capacitors in the inverter. This is normal. Do not make cable connections in the presence of flammable fumes; it may result in explosion and/or fire.</b>
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## 4 Operation

To operate the power inverter, turn it on by using the ON/OFF switch on the front panel. The inverter is now ready to deliver AC 120 volts power to your load. If you are operating several loads from the inverter, turn them on separately after the inverter itself has been turned on. This will ensure that the inverter does not have to deliver the starting power for all the loads at once.

### 4.1 Operating limits

Power output: Your inverter is designed to deliver its full output power continuously, and has a double power surge capacity for 1 second.

Input voltage: The inverter will operate with input voltages between 10.5 and 15.0 volts. Optimum performance is achieved, however, with input voltages between 12.0 and 14.0 volts. If the voltage drops lower than 11.0 volts, the low battery warning alarm will sound.

The inverter will shut down if the voltage drops below 10.5 volts. This protects your batteries from being over-discharged. The inverter will not restart unless the input voltage exceeds 13.0 volts.

The inverter will shut down if the voltage *exceeds* 15.0 volts. This protects the inverter from excessive input voltage. While the inverter incorporates protection against over voltage, it may still be damaged if the input voltage exceeds 16 volts.

## 5 Maintenance

Very little maintenance is required to keep the inverter operating properly. You should clean the exterior with a dry cloth to prevent dust accumulation. A regular maintenance check is recommended, DC input bolts or screws should be tightened periodically, cables should also be inspected for solidity and exterior condition. You must also keep your batteries as clean as possible to prevent current loss that may affect inverter operation.

**CAUTION! If you work on the DC input terminals of your power inverter, disconnect both wires at the battery side to avoid any short circuit.**

## 6 Troubleshooting

### 6.1 Television and CB radio interference

Operating your inverter can interfere with television and CB radio reception. If this occurs, the following steps may help to alleviate the problem:

- Make sure that your inverter is properly grounded to the chassis of your vehicle.
- Reduce power consumption while watching television
- Move the television as far as possible from your inverter
- Run both DC cables as close as possible together with cable ties.

## 6.2 Troubleshooting guide

Problem	Possible cause	Solution
Fault indicator ON	Low input voltage	Not enough battery capacity Recharge batteries Improper Installation. Check each inverter's installation steps
	High input voltage	Check vehicle's alternator condition
	Short circuit or AC wiring error	Check the AC wiring (120 volts) and test your appliances on an other power supply to validate their functionality
	Inverter overload	Remove or reduce load, switch the inverter OFF at least 5 second and restart the inverter
No output voltage	Inverter off	Turn the inverter on
	No DC power to the inverter	Check the wiring Check battery fuse et check the installation before changing it
	Reverse DC polarity	Replace internal fuses of the inverter. Damage caused by reversed polarity is not covered by the warranty.
Alarm on all the time	Poor battery condition	Charge or change battery
	Poor DC wiring	Use proper cables and make solid connections
	Poor DC terminal lugs connections	Use proper crimping tool
Overheat	Thermal shutdown	Reduce load
	Improper installation	Allow inverter to cool off Improve ventilation
		Install properly

## 7 Specifications

<b>Model no</b>	<b>HTS 300</b>	<b>HTS 600</b>	<b>HTS 1200</b>
AC output continuous power	300 W	600 W	1200 W
AC output power surge	600 W	1200 W	2400 W
AC output voltage	120 V	120 V	120 V
AC output waveform	Pure	Pure	Pure
DC input voltage	12 V	12 V	12 V
Low battery alarm	11.0 V	11.0 V	11.0 V
Low battery shutdown	10.5 V	10.5 V	10.5 V
No load current draw "ON"	0.6 Amp	0.6 Amp	0.6 Amp
Cooling fan(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Overload protection	Yes	Yes	Yes
Over temperature shutdown	131 °F	131 °F	131 °F
Dimensions (L x W x H) in cm.	25.0 x 12.9 x 8.2	30.0 x 17.9 x 8.2	43.0 x 17.9 x 8.2
Net weight (Kg)	1.9	3.1	4.0

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

## 8 Limited one-year warranty

Tundra International Inc. warrants its power inverters against defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one (1) year from the date of first consumer purchase. This warranty is given only to the first end-use purchaser of the product.

This limited warranty is void if the unit is abused, modified, installed improperly, if the housing has been removed, if the serial number is missing, or if the original identification markings have been defaced, altered, or removed. Tundra International Inc. is not liable for any incidental, consequential or other damages arising from the use, misuse, or operation of this product; including, without limitation, damages resulting from loss of use, cost of removal, installation, or troubleshooting of the customer's electrical systems.

Tundra International Inc. will, without charge, repair or replace, at its option, a defective inverter upon delivery, with all shipping and handling costs, and full insurance, paid for by the purchaser, to the Tundra International Service Department: 2041-A Leonard-De Vinci, Ste-Julie, Quebec, J3E 1Z2. The following information, clearly printed, must be included with the defective unit: Your name and street address, a daytime telephone number and/or email address, a detailed description of the problem and the proof of the date of first consumer purchase, such as duplicated sale receipt.



**WARRANTY FORM**

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

PRIOR TO RETURNING ANY REPORTED DEFECTIVE UNIT, MAKE SURE THE UNIT HAS BEEN INSTALLED PROPERLY AS RECOMMENDED IN OUR USER'S GUIDE.

**\* PLEASE CONTACT US AT 450-649-2470 OR 1-877-964-2582 FOR A RETURN AUTHORIZATION NUMBER**

Customer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Consumer Purchase Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The above information, along with the proof of the consumer's purchase date, such as the duplicate of the receipt, must be included with the defective unit.

**TUNDRA INTERNATIONAL INC.**

2041-A, Leonard-de Vinci, Sainte-Julie (Quebec) Canada J3E 1Z2  
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