

Tool Bag **REVVU**

Black & Decker P1500BB 2-in-1 Automotive Power Supply

Power inverters are quickly becoming a necessary tool in many modern lives. Be it running a laptop in the field, charging a cell phone while running a laptop, charging a camera battery, while running a laptop, while charging a cell phone – the larger the inverter, the more operations you can perform on-the-go. The basic idea behind a PI is to convert a vehicle's direct current (DC) charge into an alternating current (AC) charge, like that delivered from a wall outlet, allowing users to safely operate various appliances on the road.

Black & Decker, long in the business of manufacturing useful, dependable and affordable tools for people in the field and on the go, recently shot over their latest unit, a 2-in-1 system otherwise called P1500BB. Designed to power devices requiring 100 or 500 Watts of power. The idea being a user can power a cell phone or a laptop, or something more serious such as a television or a wood sander through one PI.

The P1500BB was remarkably lightweight, and easy to handle. It comes with two power cords, one to be plugged into a vehicle power source (cigar lighter, for example), and the other to be connected directly to a vehicle battery. Both require the user to attach the cords to the PI, but it's effortless – the 100W cord literally plugs right into the back of the unit, while a bullet-shaped plug slips into the vehicle power source; the 500W cords are held in place on the back of the unit by finger bolts, while jumper

clamps at the end of the cords bite the vehicle battery posts for power.

We tried the 500W first, attaching the cords where they needed to be, and pressing the POWER button. The little light glowed confidently, indicating we hadn't yet messed up, which we were half expecting. To test the PI, we dragged along a handheld wet-dry-brush vacuum from our detail shop. This vacuum has already mutilated two PIs, one rated for 500Ws, and we were eager to see if the B&D PI would handle the load any differently. Publisher Don got his kicks cleaning the passenger seat of his Ford Flex while the PI was connected to the Flex's

battery. There was no drama, no smoke, no loud buzzing noises – just a happy vacuum and an astonished set of people waiting for some kind of eventful scene. Never happened, it was boring watching Don clean one seat in his car.



Vac worked like a champ.

With this, we were confident the cell phone wouldn't destroy the PI, but we tested it anyway. Disconnected the 500W set up, connected the 100W set up, plugged in the phone, and all was right with the world. We even got to charge the phone a bit with the USB charging port. The power button, power indicator light and alerts that tell the user the PI may be depleting the vehicle battery were all very helpful.

In all, we found the Black & Decker P1500BB to be very impressive – it's easy to use,

understandable and sensible. Although the instructions weren't the easiest to decipher, the fact that we were able to connect, disconnect and find proper charges for two pieces of equipment with no drama whatsoever lead us to believe this is a product that would be very handy on the road. We recommend keeping it in the trunk. GSM

Always read all manufacturer-provided literature before operating any device. This article is not meant to construe instructions or advice, it's merely attempting to paint a picture on our experiences with a given product.



Connecting is easy.



For 500W power connect to the battery with clamps.



For 100W option use a power outlet.