

PowerBox Systems

World Leaders in RC
Power Supply Systems

PowerBox Expert

40/16

Operating instructions



The new high-performance battery backer
with four [five] stabilised servo signal amplifiers
and two voltage monitors

Dear customer,

we are delighted that you have decided to purchase the **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** from our range. Your valuable model aircraft can now be fitted with one of the most capable battery backers available, enabling you to couple two batteries (battery backer) and also monitor the voltage of both packs (voltage monitor) constantly. This modern power supply system for models also features an integrated two-way signal amplifier for each of five receiver channels, allowing you to connect multiple servos to a single output without problem..

Although this power supply system is simple to operate, you do need to understand certain points if you are to exploit its advantages to the full, especially if you are not familiar with this **new technology**, which is an **in-house development**. Please read through these instructions, and you will quickly feel 'at home' with your new accessory..

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1. How the PowerBox 40/16 Expert works:

The **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** is a modern power supply system which performs the functions of a battery backer whilst constantly monitoring the voltage and readiness of the two batteries connected to it. The condition of each pack is indicated by a chain of five coloured LEDs.

You can choose whether to install four-cell or five-cell batteries in your model. A bridging plug (jumper) on the right-hand side of the unit on the underside allows you to set the battery type you wish to use. The **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** is supplied as standard with the jumper fitted, i.e. the default is for five-cell operation. If you wish to use a four-cell receiver battery, simply remove the jumper. Re-fit it, and the voltage monitor is set to work with five cells again. **Important:** the operation of the backer is not affected in any way by the jumper.

With this power supply unit you also have “**remote access**” for up to five channels from the receiver. We have coined this term because we are absolutely convinced - and countless tests have confirmed our conviction - that not all receiver channels should be operated using an external power supply. Why should that be? After all, the standard receiver sockets are in no way bad, and they are always adequate for certain servos and model functions. Even so, there are particular applications in model aircraft for which it is not good practice to use the standard receiver connections.

That is why we recommend that you set up “remote access” to certain channels from the receiver; the channels concerned are **as follows**:

1. channels which are required to control multiple servos (several servos per control surface, integrated signal amplification required);
2. channels which are operated using very long servo leads (more than 60 cm);
3. channels which have to supply extremely powerful, high-performance servos with correspondingly high current drain (digital servos, Jumbo servos, Power servos);
4. channels which require special interference suppression measures (RF suppression of long servo leads, turbine electronics, flasher units, throttle servo, ignition servo, and many more);
5. channels which are operated constantly when a normal model is in flight, e.g. aileron, elevator and rudder.

All the other servos of your receiving system (flaps, retracts, aero-tow release etc.) can be connected to the appropriate receiver socket in the usual way. Which of the channels you “access remotely” from the receiver is up to you, but it is usually those mentioned above.

The backer (battery change-over switch) function is based on an extremely high-performance **40 Amp Dual Schottky diode**; both diodes are housed in their own case. This diode arrangement ensures that voltage losses in operation are extremely low (0.25 Volt), and this is the reason why the unit can also be used safely with four-cell batteries. If both batteries are in good condition, both contribute to the receiving system's power supply. This means that each battery only bears half the total load, and both are recharged to the same level during the charge process. This arrangement avoids premature damage to your battery cells, and extends the useful life of your receiver packs significantly.

The **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** is fitted with two independent IC-controlled voltage monitors which check the condition and performance of both power sources.

The momentary voltage of each battery is indicated on five coloured LEDs: three green, one orange and one red LED display the voltage of each battery separately. For this reason we recommend that you install the **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** in your model in such a position that you can clearly see these voltage monitor LEDs. Check **before** every flight - by "stirring the sticks" - that the voltage of both batteries remains stable. If the batteries in your model are too "weedy" for the application, i.e. of inadequate capacity, this check will immediately show up the shortcoming. In general terms, small batteries of high capacity are not suitable for use as receiver power supplies because they have a very high internal resistance; this means that their current delivery capacity is often inadequate for powerful, high-speed digital servos. **Please believe what the voltage display tells you!**

For even better monitoring of the power sources, the backer also features a minimum value memory (**low voltage memory**) for both packs. This memory records all voltage collapses during the flight, separately for each battery. This is a very important feature, as it provides you with important information. You can now check the state and performance of your batteries both in a brief pre-flight test, and also in a long-term test (over the full duration of the flight).

You can call up the low voltage memory after every flight by "pressing" on the marked button (low voltage memory) in the centre of the PowerBox; you must do this before you switch the system off.

The memory is reset when you switch off the power supply system; the recording process begins anew when you switch on again.

The voltage display is not linear, but matched to the discharge curve of today's Nickel-Cadmium (NC) and Nickel-Metal-Hydride (NiMH) cells. It is not possible to predict useful battery operating times, because this varies according to the battery capacity, the number of servos, the type of servos, and the frequency of control commands.

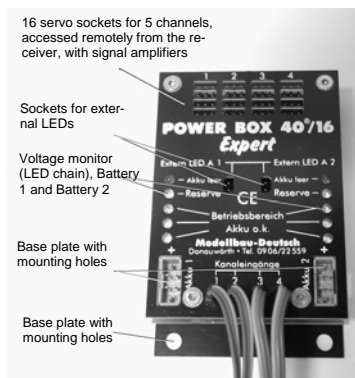
The **PowerBox 40/16 Expert** is equipped with five **stabilised** two-way signal amplifiers, i.e. a separate amplifier for each channel. In our opinion this additional complexity is worthwhile, as it completely prevents the problem of "crosstalk" between the different channels, which can occur when only one IC is used for this purpose. The signal amplitude is maintained exactly at a constant 5.0 Volts: another feature which is only found in our systems. Many servos do not respond correctly to signals whose voltage fluctuates.

These modern, short circuit-protected signal amplifiers are also necessary in order to block out interference which could penetrate the system via the servo leads connected to the unit.

2. Specification:

Operating voltage:	4,0 V to 8,0 Volts
Power supply:	2 x 4-cell or 2 x 5-cell NiCd or NiMH batteries
Current drain:	approx. 50 mA
Voltage loss:	approx. 0.25 V
Servo sockets:	16 sockets, 5 channels
Max. continuous current:	40 A
Temperaturbereich:	-10 °C to +55 °C
Dimensions:	91 x 65 x 18 mm (incl. base plate)
Weight:	83 g

3. Connections, controls:



The two receiver batteries are connected via the pair of integral high-current sockets. In theory the **PowerBox 40/16** will also work with a single battery, but this forfeits the extra security of a dual-battery power supply.

If you have to make up your own battery connecting leads, please take great care to avoid reversed polarity, as this would immediately destroy the battery packer's voltage monitor circuits.

Power is fed to the receiver and all the other servos via all five servo leads. Please leave the servo plugs connected to the channel sockets of your receiver; the socket marked "B" (battery) should be left unused. All connecting leads at the receiver can be connected in any sequence. The only requirement is that the assignment number at the PowerBox input must be identical to the channel number of the PowerBox output; these are therefore numbered from 1 to 5.

4. Operating the unit, safety notes

It is essential to use low-resistance batteries of the best possible quality to supply your receiving system. Don't be tempted to use receiver packs of inadequate capacity, as just one of them will have to power the whole system on its own if one pack should fail in flight. We recommend that you use batteries of at least 1700 mAh capacity, and for large-scale models batteries of 3000 mAh or more are appropriate. You can use either Nickel-Cadmium (NC) batteries or Nickel-Metal-Hydrate (NiMH) packs. **The PowerBox 40/16 Expert is not designed to be used with Lithium-Polymer cells.**

We can supply a wide range of high-quality batteries, suitable for most applications in modelling, and we recommend that you make use of our experience in ensuring the security of your model. As you would expect, if you wish us to make up batteries for your own use you can state the exact cable length you require.

Naturally it is possible to connect two separate receivers to this battery backer. If you wish to do this be sure to observe the information supplied by your RC manufacturer concerning the use of two receivers in a model, otherwise there may be problems with inter-action between the two units. (minimum physical separation 20 cm). Power is supplied to the receivers via the five servo leads of the **PowerBox 40/16 Expert**.

Install the battery backer in the model aeroplane with adequate vibration protection, as used for the other components of the receiving system.

You will find that the mounting plate with its four screw-holes makes it easy to install the backer. We suggest that you install the unit in the model in a position where it is clearly visible from outside. We recommend that you connect the two batteries using a switch harness (**PowerSwitch set**), but it is also permissible to connect the batteries directly to the backer..

To check the system we recommend that you operate first the one switch, then the other. In each case the voltage monitor LEDs for the associated battery must light up. Connect the unit to the receiver with the power switched off. Note that the receiving system must work properly even when only one battery is connected. Check this by switching on the transmitter and operating the controls.

The **battery backer fulfils the EMV protection requirements**, entitling it to carry the **CE symbol**. However, please note that the unit is designed and approved solely for use in modelling applications, and may only be used in radio-controlled models.

The unit may only be used with a Direct Current (D.C.) power supply corresponding to an NC or NiMH battery consisting of up to five cells. **It must never be connected to a mains PSU.**

5. Guarantee conditions

During the production process each battery backer undergoes a series of tests. We take the maintenance of the highest quality standards very seriously, and that is why we are able to grant a **24 month guarantee** on all our battery backer systems, valid from the initial date of purchase. The guarantee covers proven material faults, which will be corrected by us at no charge to you. We wish to emphasise expressly that we reserve the right to replace the unit if a repair is impossible for economic reasons.

Proof of the commencement and progress of this guarantee period is the purchase receipt. Repairs which our Service Department carries out for you do not extend the guarantee period. Misuse and maltreatment, such as reversed polarity, excessive voltage and the effects of damp invalidate the guarantee. The same applies to faults due to severe wear or excessive vibration. The guarantee does not cover any additional claims, such as consequent damage. **We expressly deny liability for damages which are caused by the device, or arise through the use of the device.**

6. Optional accessories:

We recommend that you use the **PowerSwitch**, developed expressly for use with our battery backers, to connect the receiver batteries to the unit. These switches are packaged as sets, complete with connectors and a charge lead, and are available in the colours black and grey. The switches are accurately matched in performance to the **PowerBox 40/16 Expert**, and are capable of handling much higher currents than the standard switches which are commonly used in modelling to switch receiving systems on and off.

Our PowerSwitches are genuine safety switches.

We wish you every success using your new battery backer, and hope you have loads of fun with it.

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