

DG400 Solar Panel Testimony Following Installation:

The solar panels are working great: in fact, I have not yet needed to charge the batteries with an external battery charger. After having been exposed to sunlight in the morning for a couple hours, the panels have had the batteries fully charged prior to launching. Setting on the ramp, the volt meter shows 14.2 volts under strong sun light and no load. When I turn all the equipment on, I show 13.2. After 4-5 hrs flying, it will show 12.8 and has yet to drop below 12.8v. I have not flown beyond 5 hrs but based on what I'm seeing; suspect the panels will hold the voltage 7-8 hrs before the batteries drop below 12.8. And I'm operating an old Terra transponder which I leave operating all the time while airborne. With all the hoopla about transponders, these solar panels are obviously the solution to power problems for operating transponders. While the panels will not keep up with the current draw from navigation equipment, recorders, radio and a transponder, they do extend the available battery voltage considerably. Certainly eliminates the need to install a second battery source. I've already suggested to several guys that they install panels in lieu of adding more batteries, especially to these guys that are considering install that Microair that seems popular. So far, it has eliminated needing an external charging source.

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