

Forklift Alternators and Starters

Forklift Starters and Alternators - A starter motor today is normally a permanent-magnet composition or a series-parallel wound direct current electrical motor with a starter solenoid installed on it. Once current from the starting battery is applied to the solenoid, mainly through a key-operated switch, the solenoid engages a lever that pushes out the drive pinion which is located on the driveshaft and meshes the pinion using the starter ring gear which is found on the engine flywheel.

The solenoid closes the high-current contacts for the starter motor, that starts to turn. After the engine starts, the key operated switch is opened and a spring inside the solenoid assembly pulls the pinion gear away from the ring gear. This action causes the starter motor to stop. The starter's pinion is clutched to its driveshaft by an overrunning clutch. This permits the pinion to transmit drive in only a single direction. Drive is transmitted in this way through the pinion to the flywheel ring gear. The pinion continues to be engaged, for example since the driver did not release the key once the engine starts or if the solenoid remains engaged as there is a short. This causes the pinion to spin separately of its driveshaft.

This aforesaid action prevents the engine from driving the starter. This is an essential step because this particular kind of back drive would enable the starter to spin really fast that it could fly apart. Unless adjustments were done, the sprag clutch arrangement will prevent using the starter as a generator if it was used in the hybrid scheme discussed prior. Typically a regular starter motor is intended for intermittent utilization which will preclude it being used as a generator.

The electrical parts are made to be able to function for around thirty seconds to be able to prevent overheating. Overheating is caused by a slow dissipation of heat is because of ohmic losses. The electrical parts are intended to save cost and weight. This is truly the reason the majority of owner's handbooks for automobiles suggest the operator to pause for a minimum of 10 seconds after each ten or fifteen seconds of cranking the engine, whenever trying to start an engine that does not turn over immediately.

The overrunning-clutch pinion was launched onto the market in the early 1960's. Prior to the 1960's, a Bendix drive was used. This particular drive system operates on a helically cut driveshaft which has a starter drive pinion placed on it. When the starter motor starts turning, the inertia of the drive pinion assembly enables it to ride forward on the helix, thus engaging with the ring gear. When the engine starts, the backdrive caused from the ring gear enables the pinion to surpass the rotating speed of the starter. At this moment, the drive pinion is forced back down the helical shaft and therefore out of mesh with the ring gear.

The development of Bendix drive was made during the 1930's with the overrunning-clutch design known as the Bendix Folo-Thru drive, developed and launched during the 1960s. The Folo-Thru drive consists of a latching mechanism along with a set of flyweights in the body of the drive unit. This was an enhancement since the typical Bendix drive used so as to disengage from the ring once the engine fired, although it did not stay functioning.

As soon as the starter motor is engaged and begins turning, the drive unit is forced forward on the helical shaft by inertia. It then becomes latched into the engaged position. As soon as the drive unit is spun at a speed higher than what is achieved by the starter motor itself, like for instance it is backdriven by the running engine, and after that the flyweights pull outward in a radial manner. This releases the latch and permits the overdriven drive unit to become spun out of engagement, hence unwanted starter disengagement can be avoided previous to a successful engine start.