

12/24 Volt Trailer, Caravan Electrical Tow Plug And Light Tester Basic

User Guide

This Product Includes The Following:

1. Basic tester 12/24V / 20A
2. Fuses 7.5 ampere
3. SABS wiring standard diagrams

Thank you very much for purchasing this product!

We hope you will have fun with the trailer light tester tool! We use this very same tester with great success at our workshop, Peter Tune Up and Repairs.

www.petertuneup.co.za

How To Safely Operate Tester

Tester fuse will burn through when overloading or a short occurs. Overloading happens when current rises near the rated current of fuse in a very short time until the fuse overheats and burns through. Switching on all light circuits of tester will induce overloading. A short happens when opposite polarities come into contact with each other. The voltmeter reading on the tester will drop rapidly just before the fuse blows when in a short state.



When there is a short somewhere, switch off the tester and find the origin of the short and fix it, then continue testing.

This tester can test all light circuits on all types of trailers and caravans on the South-African market, working with the seven-pin round towing plugs.

- Always use a fully charged battery. Voltage reading with no load be between 12.60 to 13.80 volts
- For tester protection, we recommend 7.5-ampere fuses
- Never pull on electrical wires
- Tester not waterproof; keep away from water, oil, petrol and other liquids

Indicators on the tester:

Right Side of Tester	Voltmeter	Indicates tester is powered on and ready. It also shows the voltage reading of the battery connected to the tester.
Testing LED's	Red, Blue, Amber, Green	Indicates toggle activity.
Left Side of Tester (below trailer socket)	Small Bi-colour LED	Indicates if there is a positive or negative source connected to the auxiliary wire. Read more on auxiliary test.

CAUTION:

The tester can handle a maximum load of 20 amperes. Do not insert fuses rated more than 10 amperes, as the tester electrical components may get damaged.





Testing tow socket, wiring circuit and lights of trailer or caravan

Quick Tip

Please clean and remove dirt from the trailer or caravan tow plug before plugging into the tester. When plugged in, it sometimes helps wiggle the plug to loosen sticky terminals, ensuring better contact.

- Insert male plug of trailer/caravan into the female socket of the tester
- Connect the tester to any external DC 12/24 volt supply. Positive (red) and negative (black). The voltmeter of the tester will show that power is available. The tester will permanently supply negative polarity to the trailer or caravan that you are testing
- Start testing

- EARTH / GROUND WIRE TEST -

On trailers and caravans fitted with standard light globes:

With no earth/ground wire connected on the trailer or caravan - On the tester, switching on any of the toggle switches will let the LED's (except the auxiliary LED) light up. The lights on the trailer or caravan will not work or light up very dimly if there is a poor connection. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

With the earth/ground wire swapped between light circuits on trailer or caravan - On the tester, switching on any of the toggle switches will light up two or more LED's, indicating an earth/ground fault. The lights on the trailer or caravan will also work incorrectly. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

With the earth/ground wire of the trailer or caravan connected to the auxiliary circuit - On the tester, without switching on any of the toggle switches, the auxiliary LED will light up dimly green with the other LED's lighting up brightly. The lights on the trailer or caravan will not work when switching on the toggle switches. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

On trailers and caravans fitted with LED lights:

With no earth/ground wire connected on the trailer or caravan - On the tester, switching on any of the toggle switches will make none of the LED's light up, and no lights will work on trailer or caravan. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

With the earth/ground wire swapped between light circuits on trailer or caravan - On the tester, switching on any of the toggle switches, two or more LED's will light up, indicating an earth/ground fault. The lights on the trailer or caravan will not work. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

With the earth/ground wire of the trailer or caravan connected to the auxiliary circuit - On the tester, the auxiliary LED will light up red when switching on any of the toggle switches. The lights on the trailer or caravan will not work. Fix the earth/ground circuit before continuing.

- STOPLIGHT TEST -

- Switch on the stoplight toggle switch of tester
- The stop LED on tester must light up, and both left and right-hand stoplights of trailer/caravan must work
- If stoplights work, then the circuit is OK
- Switch off and continue to next test

If the circuit fails the test, then check for the following faults -

- Trailer/caravan tow plug and lights not wired according to standard
- Blown globes
- Globes wrongly fitted (check all globes)
- Worn or dirty contact points
- Dead/broken positive wire (red) from trailer/caravan tow plug to stop lights
- Earth/ground wire (white) from trailer/caravan tow plug to lights is dead/broken or not making full contact at globe holder/s negative side

- R/H TAIL LIGHT TEST -

- Switch on the right-hand tail light toggle switch of tester
- The right-hand tail LED on the tester must light up, and the right-hand tail light on the trailer/caravan must light up
- If right-hand tail light and number plate light works, then the circuit is OK
- Switch off and continue to next test

If the circuit fails the test, then check for the following faults -

- Trailer/caravan tow plug and lights not wired according to standard
- Blown globes
- Globes wrongly fitted (check all globes)
- Worn or dirty contact points
- Dead/broken positive wire (brown) from trailer/caravan tow plug to tail light
- Earth/ground wire (white) from trailer/caravan tow plug to light is dead/broken or not making full contact at globe holder/s negative side

- L /H TAIL LIGHT TEST -

- Switch on the left-hand tail light toggle switch of tester
- The left-hand tail LED on the tester must light up, and the left-hand tail light on the trailer/caravan must light up
- If left-hand tail light and number plate works, then the circuit is OK
- Switch off and continue to next test

If the circuit fails the test, then check for the following faults -

- Trailer/caravan tow plug and lights not wired according to standard
- Blown globes
- Globes wrongly fitted (check all globes)
- Worn or dirty contact points
- Dead/broken positive wire (black) from trailer/caravan tow plug to tail light
- Earth/ground wire (white) from trailer/caravan tow plug to light is dead/broken or not making full contact at globe holder/s negative side

- R /H INDICATOR LIGHT TEST -

- Switch on the right-hand indicator light toggle switch of tester
- The right-hand indicator LED on the tester must light up, and the right-hand indicator light on the trailer/caravan must light up
- If the right-hand indicator works then the circuit is OK
- Switch off and continue to next test

If the circuit fails the test, then check for the following faults -

- Trailer/caravan tow plug and lights not wired according to standard
- Blown globes
- Globes wrongly fitted (check all globes)
- Worn or dirty contact points
- Dead/broken positive wire (green) from trailer/caravan tow plug to indicator light
- Earth/ground wire (white) from trailer/caravan tow plug to light is dead/broken or not making full contact at globe holder/s negative side

- L /H INDICATOR LIGHT TEST -

- Switch on the left-hand indicator light toggle switch of tester
- The left-hand indicator LED on the tester must light up, and the left-hand indicator light on the trailer/caravan must light up
- If the left-hand indicator works then the circuit is OK
- Switch off and continue to next test

If the circuit fails the test, then check for the following faults -

- Trailer/caravan tow plug and lights not wired according to standard
- Blown globes
- Globes wrongly fitted (check all globes)
- Worn or dirty contact points
- Dead/broken positive wire (yellow) from trailer/caravan tow plug to indicator light
- Earth/ground wire (white) from trailer/caravan tow plug to light is dead/broken or not making full contact at globe holder/s negative side

- AUXILIARY CONNECTION TEST -

If the auxiliary wire receives any power, the LED (auxiliary) on the tester will either go red for positive power source or green for negative power source. By standard, this wire is open with nothing connected to it, and the LED should not illuminate. If it does, check for what reason.

- SHORT CIRCUIT TEST -

Depending on the electrical cable length, size, and condition, the cable's resistance also increases. The main testing fuse (7.5A) of the tester may not always blow immediately or at all because the electrons have to travel further through the wire. The only way to check for shorts on light circuits of the trailer or caravan is by using our trailer light testers and any ampere-meter. We will need a digital multimeter that has an ampere reading function of at least 10 ampere. If you suspect a short or want to test for a short in a circuit, remove the tester fuse, insert the multimeter probes in the fuse slots, set the multimeter to ampere, and start with the test.

See the example below on how to connect multimeter or any ampere-meter to trailer tester.



Test 1:

In this test, we are only going to test the stoplights circuit. The stoplights circuit consists of two light globes connected in parallel, with power ratings of 12v/21w each. The electrical cable used is 8 meters long, seven core, with wires of a cross-sectional area of 0.75mm² each. The electrical cable wires are in excellent condition, with low resistance.

To calculate the total load, add all the light globes used in the circuit. Use this number and compare it with what the ampere-meter shows. The ampere-meter reading value must be as close as possible to the calculated load number for the circuit to pass the short circuit test.

As mentioned above, an electrical cable can have a significant adverse effect on a trailer or caravan light circuit if it's not right. Luckily, when carrying out a short circuit test, it will also determine if the electrical cable needs replacing.

Take note: Most electrical cables, five to ten percent (5-10%) volt drop, are allowed; if more than that, the resistance is too high for use. Selecting the right electrical cable size and length are important for lights to work perfectly and efficiently.

Type of test Testing Circuit information Electrical cable information	short circuit test trailer stoplights circuit 2 x standard globes 12v/21w 8 meter, seven core with wires of 0.75mm ² each- Volt drop is in range with low resistance. The cable is good.
Circuit total load calculation <i>(using ohm's law)</i>	$P = V \times I$ $(P)21 = (V)12 \times I$ $I = 1.75 \text{ A} \times 2 \text{ (light globes)}$ = 3.5 A The value which the ampere-meter must show more or less, for the circuit to pass the test.
Ammeter reading value	3.49 A (0.01 Ampere difference)
TEST PASSED!	Result: The amp-meter reading value is in range and very close to 3.5 Amperes. No short circuit was detected.

Test 2:

In this test, we are only going to test the stoplights circuit. The stoplights circuit consists of two light globes connected in parallel, with power ratings of 12v/21w each. The electrical cable used is 50 meters long, seven core, with wires of a cross-sectional area of 0.75mm² each. The electrical cable wires are in bad condition, with high resistance.

To calculate the total load, use the same method as Test 1.

Type of test Testing Circuit information Electrical cable information	short circuit test trailer stoplights circuit 2 x standard globes 12v/21w 50 meter, seven core with wires of 0.75mm ² each- Volt drop is above 10% with high resistance. The cable is not good.
Circuit total load calculation <i>(using ohm's law)</i>	$P = V \times I$ $(P)21 = (V)12 \times I$ $I = 1.75 \text{ A} \times 2 \text{ (light globes)}$ = 3.5 A The value which the ampere-meter must show more or less, for the circuit to pass the test.
Ammeter reading value	2.50 A (1.00 Ampere difference)
TEST FAILED!	Result: The amp-meter reading value is not in range, over one-ampere difference on the lower-level side. The cable is the cause of the current to drop in the circuit. No short circuit was detected.

Test 3:

In this test, we are only going to test the stoplights circuit. The stoplights circuit consists of two light globes connected in parallel, with power ratings of 12v/21w each. The electrical cable used is 50 meters long, seven core, with wires of a cross-sectional area of 0.75mm² each. The electrical cable wires are in bad condition, with high resistance.

To calculate the total load, use the same method as Test 1 or 2.

Type of test Testing Circuit information Electrical cable information	short circuit test trailer stoplights circuit 2 x standard globes 12v/21w 50 meter, seven core with wires of 0.75mm ² each- Volt drop is above 10% with high resistance. The cable is not good.
Circuit total load calculation <i>(using ohm's law)</i>	$P = V \times I$ $(P)21 = (V)12 \times I$ $I = 1.75 \text{ A} \times 2 \text{ (light globes)}$ = 3.5 A The value which the ampere-meter must show more or less, for the circuit to pass the test.
Ammeter reading value	5.30 A (1.80 Ampere difference)
TEST FAILED!	Result: The amp-meter reading value is not in range, nearly two-ampere difference in the upper-level side. A short circuit was detected.

Test 4:

In this test, we are only going to test the stoplights circuit. The stoplights circuit consists of two light globes connected in parallel, with power ratings of 12v/21w each. The electrical cable used is 8 meters long, seven core, with wires of a cross-sectional area of 0.75mm² each. The electrical cable wires are in excellent condition, with low resistance.

To calculate the total load, use the same method as Test 1, 2, or 3.

Type of test Testing Circuit information Electrical cable information	short circuit test trailer stoplights circuit 2 x standard globes 12v/21w 8 meter, seven core with wires of 0.75mm ² each- Volt drop is in range with low resistance. The cable is good.
Circuit total load calculation <i>(using ohm's law)</i>	$P = V \times I$ $(P)21 = (V)12 \times I$ $I = 1.75 \text{ A} \times 2 \text{ (light globes)}$ = 3.5 A The value which the ampere-meter must show more or less, for the circuit to pass the test.
Ammeter reading value	+10 A (tester fuse blew)
TEST FAILED!	Result: The amp-meter reading value is not in range. The fuse on the tester blew as the current increased above the rated fuse of 7.5 amperes. A short circuit was detected.

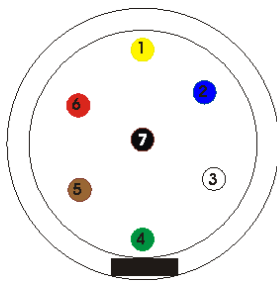
List of common short circuits on trailer or caravans:

- Faulty globes or LED's
- Poor connections on globe holder/s
- Damaged insulation on wires
- Wire connections not correctly insulated
- Burned wires inside harness
- Bad connections made inside tow plug
- Wires not wired according to SABS standard
- Incorrect cable size used

Dear User,

Just a reminder that free email support is available for any questions or problems you should encounter. Telephonic inquiries are also welcome.

WIRING DIAGRAM TAILGATE (TRAILER)
SABS 1327 - 1981



- 1.---- LEFT INDICATOR ----YELLOW
- 2.---- AUXILIARY-----BLUE
- 3.----EARTH-----WHITE
- 4.----RIGHT INDICATOR----GREEN
- 5.----RIGHT TAIL-LIGHT-----BROWN
- 6.----STOP LIGHTS-----RED
- 7.----LEFT TAIL-LIGHT-----BLACK

