

NEW FREE FEATURE • SEPTEMBER 2026

DEAD STARTER BATTERY? YOUR ORION XS CAN NOW JUMP IT.

Victron's firmware v1.15 lets your Orion XS DC-DC charger run **in reverse**. It sends power from your house (auxiliary) battery back into a flat starter battery so you can crank the engine. You don't need jumper cables or a second vehicle.

This guide walks you through the free update, the one setting to check, and how to use the feature when you need it.

BEFORE YOU START

- ☐ An **Orion XS** DC-DC charger (models below)
- ☐ A phone or tablet with **Bluetooth**, in range of the charger
- ☐ The **VictronConnect** app, updated to **v6.43 or newer**
- ☐ About **10 minutes** for the firmware update
- ☐ Your charger's **PIN**, if you changed it from the default
- ☐ A house battery with charge to spare

WHICH CHARGERS GET IT

ORION XS 12/12-50A

12 V in • 12 V out

Max reverse current	25 A*
Charges starter to	14.4 V max
House battery floor	12 V

ORION XS 12/12-70A

12 V in • 12 V out

Max reverse current	35 A*
Charges starter to	14.4 V max
House battery floor	12 V

ORION XS 1400

Multi-voltage • 12 V or 24 V

Max reverse current	½ rated*
Charges starter to	14.4 / 28.8 V
House battery floor	12 / 24 V

*Reverse current is half the charger's rated current, or your configured current limit if that is lower. As the house battery nears its floor voltage, the Orion XS lowers the current so it doesn't drain the house battery too deeply.

HOW IT WORKS: ONE 20-MINUTE CYCLE

REVERSE CHARGE

15 MIN • HOUSE → STARTER

BATTERY READY

5 MIN • CRANK NOW

NORMAL

RESUMES

The app shows **Emergency reverse charge** and a countdown. Current shows as a **negative** number while power flows backward.

The charger switches off so the starter battery can settle. **Start the engine during this window.**

YOUR 3-STEP PATH

STEP 1 • P. 2

UPDATE THE FIRMWARE

Do it yourself over Bluetooth or on VRM. SolarWatch Pro members can have us do it remotely.

STEP 2 • P. 3

CHECK ONE SETTING

Only the Orion XS 1400 needs this: set it to a 12 V or 24 V starter battery.

STEP 3 • P. 3

USE IT WHEN NEEDED

Tap the engine icon, start the cycle, and crank when the app shows Battery ready.

OPTION A • MOST OWNERS • BLUETOOTH

UPDATE WITH THE VICTRONCONNECT APP

- 1 Update the app first.** Open the App Store, Google Play, or the Victron website and install VictronConnect **v6.43 or newer**. The app includes the v1.15 firmware file, so older app versions won't offer the update.
- 2 Get close to the charger.** Stand within Bluetooth range and keep your phone plugged in or well charged.
- 3 Connect.** Open VictronConnect and tap your **Orion XS** in the device list. Enter your PIN if asked.
- 4 Accept the update.** The app will say a firmware update is available. Tap **Update** and confirm.
- 5 Wait for it to finish.** Keep the app open, the screen on, and the phone nearby. The charger restarts when the update is done. **Don't disconnect power to the Orion XS during the update.**
- 6 Confirm the version.** Tap the cog , then the menu , then **Product info**. The firmware should read **v1.15**.

Your settings are kept. A normal firmware update keeps your existing charge settings. Still, it's worth taking a quick screenshot of your settings screen before you start.

OPTION B • DIY REMOTE • CERBO GX OWNERS

UPDATE REMOTELY ON THE VRM PORTAL

This works if:

- your Orion XS is wired to a Cerbo GX (or other GX device) with a **VE.Direct** cable,
- the GX device is online and reporting to VRM,
- **Full access** is turned on. On the GX, go to Settings → VRM online portal → VRM Portal. On Venus OS older than v3.50, the setting is called **Two way communication**.
- you have admin rights on the installation.

- 1** Log in at **vrn.victronenergy.com** and open your installation.
- 2** Go to **Device list** and choose **Remote firmware update**.
- 3** Select the Orion XS, choose v1.15, and start the update. The file goes to your GX first, so a spotty connection won't interrupt the update partway.

Victron's full instructions: [VRM remote firmware update manual](#)

OPTION C • SOLARWATCH PRO MEMBERS • WE DO IT FOR YOU

HAVE TUCSON RV SOLAR UPDATE IT REMOTELY

If Tucson RV Solar installed your system and you're a **SolarWatch Pro** member, **Remote Programming Assistance** is included. We'll:

- install the **v1.15 firmware** remotely through VRM
- set up the **Starter battery voltage** ahead of time on an Orion XS 1400
- check your other settings are unchanged after the update

How it works: Give us 48 hours' notice. We'll send you a written summary of exactly what will change, and we only make the change after you reply to approve it. Your Orion XS must be connected to a Cerbo GX on VRM. You still start an emergency reverse charge yourself, on-site, from the app.

NOT A PRO MEMBER YET?

\$29.99

PER MONTH

\$299.99

PER YEAR

Pro also includes VRM alert monitoring and same-business-day phone and text support.

CALL / TEXT 520-910-1237

Already a member? Text **"Orion v1.15"** to schedule your update.

2 SET THE STARTER BATTERY VOLTAGE (ORION XS 1400 ONLY)

The Orion XS 1400 works with both 12 V and 24 V systems, so it needs to know your **starter battery** voltage. The 12/12-50A and 12/12-70A models skip this step.

- 1 Connect in VictronConnect and tap the cog .
- 2 In the Charger mode settings, find **Starter battery voltage**.
- 3 Choose **12 V** or **24 V** to match your chassis starter battery.

Get this right. The setting must match your starter battery's nominal voltage. Most gas and diesel motorhome and tow-vehicle chassis use **12 V**. If you're not sure, check before you choose, or call us.

If you skip this, the app asks you to **Select** a voltage the first time you use the feature. Setting it now means one less step when you're stuck.

3 START AN EMERGENCY REVERSE CHARGE

When it's available: The feature works when the Orion XS has **stopped charging forward**. That happens when it detects the engine is off, or when the input voltage lockout is active (a flat starter battery usually triggers this). It also works when the charger is in **remote-off**. If the engine is running and the charger is charging normally, the icon won't be available.

- 1 **Turn off loads on the starter battery.** Switch off headlights, the dash fan, and the radio so the charge goes into the battery.
- 2 **Connect** to your Orion XS in VictronConnect.
- 3 On the **Status** screen, tap the **engine icon** at the top left.
- 4 Read the voltage and current summary, then tap **I understand the feature**. On an XS 1400 with no voltage set yet, you'll pick 12 V or 24 V here.
- 5 Tap **START**. The app shows **Emergency reverse charge** with a 15-minute countdown. Current reads as a negative number.
- 6 **Wait for Battery ready**. The charger pauses for 5 minutes to let the battery settle.
- 7 **Crank the engine during the Battery ready window.** Once the engine is running, the Orion XS goes back to charging your house battery normally.

NEED TO STOP EARLY?

Tap the engine icon again and confirm **STOP**. The 5-minute settling period is skipped and the charger goes back to normal.

DIDN'T START?

"Battery ready" means the 15-minute charge finished. It doesn't guarantee the engine will crank. You can run another cycle if your house battery has charge left. If a second try fails, see page 4.

This is an emergency tool, not a battery fix. If your starter battery keeps going flat, it may be failing, or something may be draining it while the rig is parked. Have it tested. A reverse charge can't restore a battery with a bad cell.

IF SOMETHING DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT TO CHECK
The app doesn't offer the v1.15 update	Update VictronConnect to v6.43 or newer first. The firmware file comes with the app. Then reconnect to the charger.
No engine icon on the Status screen	Check that Product info shows firmware v1.15 . Then make sure the charger has stopped forward charging : the engine must be off, or the input voltage lockout must be active.
Reverse charge current is lower than expected	This is normal when your house battery is getting low. The charger reduces current to protect it. A current limit you set in your settings also caps reverse current.
XS 1400 is asking for a starter battery voltage	The Starter battery voltage setting hasn't been chosen yet. Pick the voltage that matches your chassis battery (usually 12 V).
The update stopped or failed partway	Keep power connected, move closer to the charger, reconnect, and run the update again. If the charger won't respond afterward, call us before trying anything else.
The engine still won't crank after two cycles	The starter battery may be failing, or the problem may not be the battery (starter, connections, fuel). Call us, a roadside service, or your chassis service provider.

STOP AND CALL RIGHT AWAY

If you smell smoke or burning, see melted or damaged wiring, or notice sparking or arcing, **stop the reverse charge** and step away from the battery area. Don't try to diagnose or repair it yourself. Call a qualified technician, or call us at **520-910-1237**. If you're a Tucson RV Solar customer, don't modify, repair, or replace work we installed before contacting us first.

SOLARWATCH PRO

WANT US TO HANDLE UPDATES LIKE THIS?

Victron says this is the **first of several** reverse-charging features planned for the Orion XS. SolarWatch Pro members on systems we installed get remote firmware updates and settings changes (with 48 hours' notice and your written approval), plus VRM alert monitoring and live phone support.

\$29.99/mo or \$299.99/yr · Call or text 520-910-1237

WATCH THE VIDEO

SEE IT DONE STEP BY STEP

This guide goes with our walkthrough video on the Tucson RV Solar YouTube channel.

youtube.com/@TucsonRVSolar

OFFICIAL VICTRON RESOURCES

- Orion XS 12/12-50A manual: [Section 4.2, Emergency reverse charge](#)
- Orion XS 12/12-70A manual: victronenergy.com, [Orion XS 12/12-70A](#)
- Orion XS 1400 manual: [Emergency reverse charge and Starter battery voltage](#)
- VRM Portal: [Remote firmware update instructions](#)

This guide is based on Victron Energy's Orion XS firmware v1.15 release notes and the Orion XS manuals (September 2026). App screens and wording may change in later versions. If anything here differs from the manual for your model, follow the manual. Victron, Orion XS, VictronConnect, VRM, and Cerbo GX are trademarks of Victron Energy B.V.