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# Today's Charging Systems

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# Today's Charging Systems

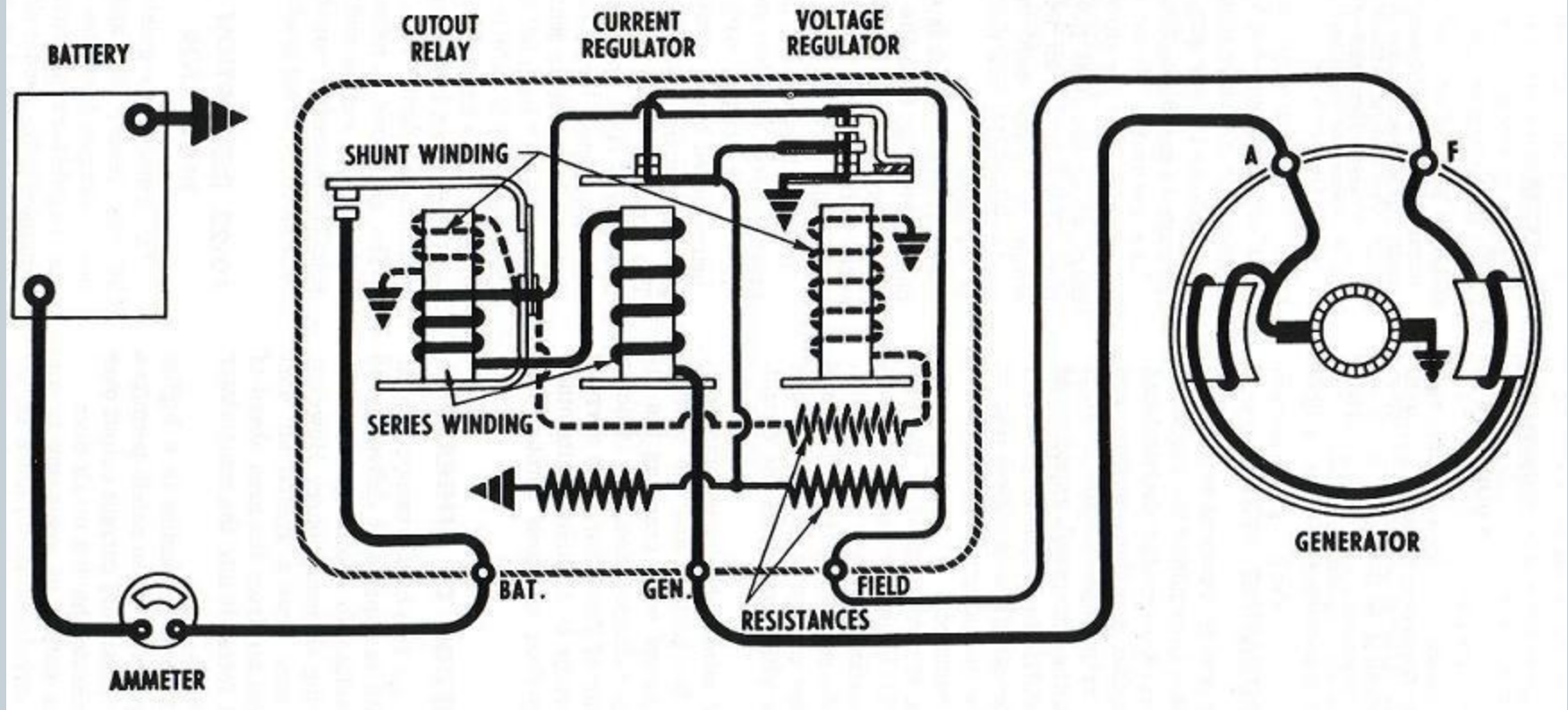


**BY: OMAR TRINIDAD**

# History

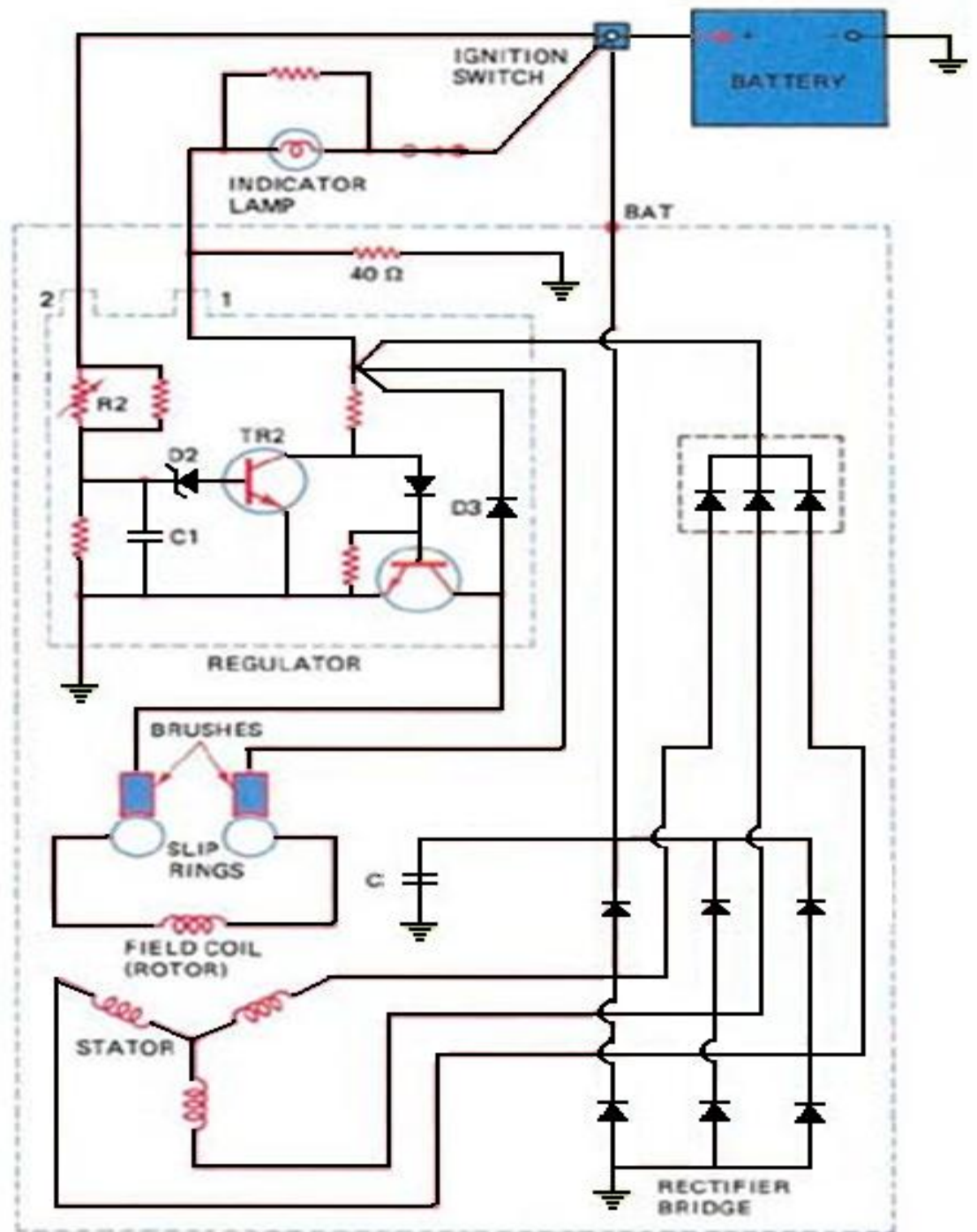


- Generator (Mechanically Regulated)



# History

- GM-SI Alternator
- Electronically Regulated
- Temp Control



# Charging Systems



- 05-08 Chevy Suburban
- 01 Dodge Durango
- Honda & Acura

# 05-06 Chevy Suburban



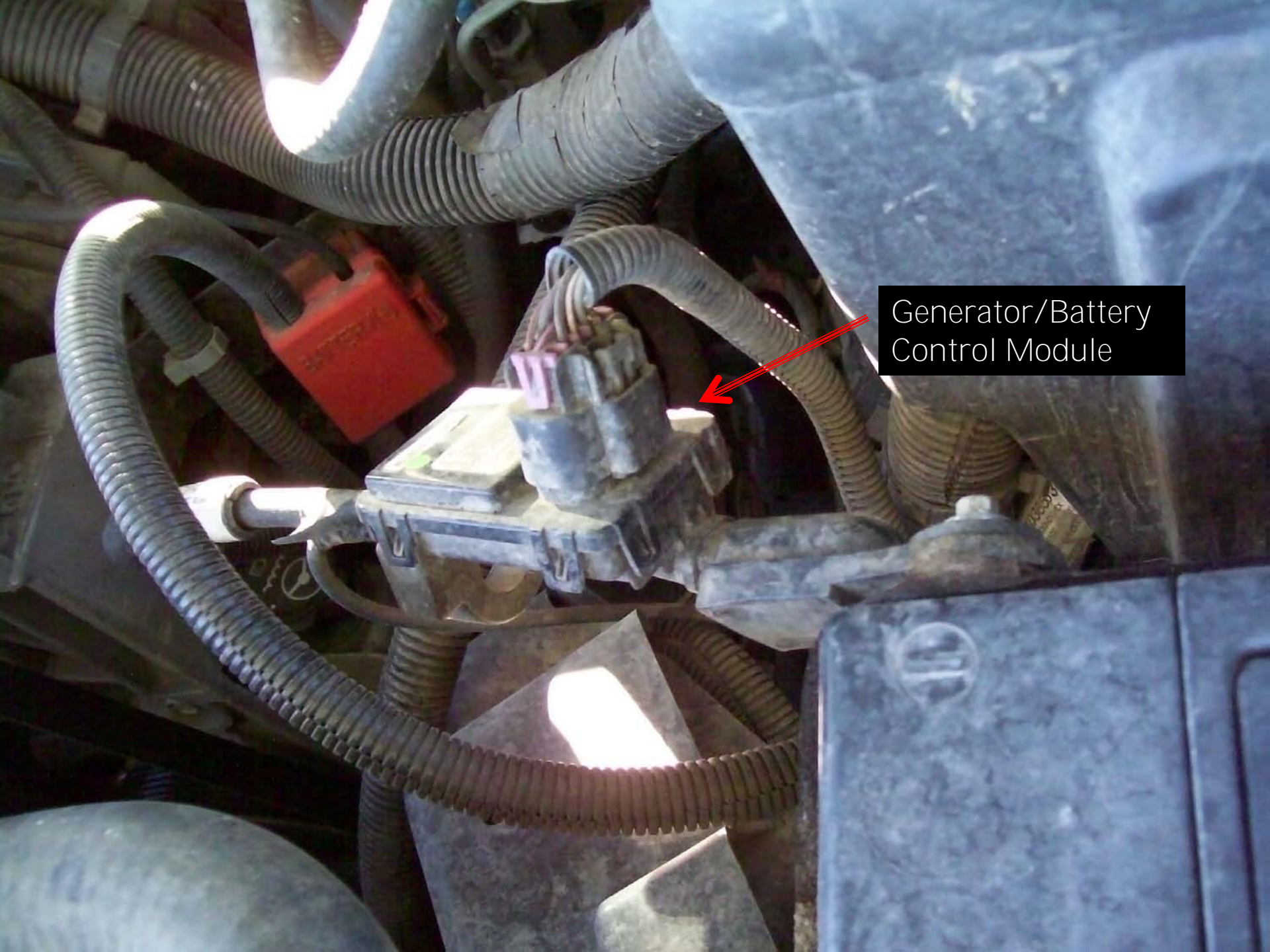
- Generator/Battery Control Module
- 9 Modes
- Pulse Width Modulated
- Improves:
  - Alternator Effectiveness
  - Improve Battery Life
  - Improve Fuel Economy



# Charging System



- Electrical Power Management System
  - Monitors Battery Voltage and Condition
  - Adjusts Regulated Voltage
  - Performs diagnostics and MIL
- Generator Battery Control Module
  - Communicates with the PCM and BCM
  - Controls generator field circuit
  - Monitors generator field duty cycle and battery voltage
  - 13.8 V Default
  - Negative Battery Cable

A close-up photograph of a Generator/Battery Control Module (GBCM) in a vehicle's engine compartment. The module is a grey, rectangular electronic component with a multi-pin connector on top. It is surrounded by various hoses, wires, and other engine components. A red arrow points to the module, and a black text box with white text identifies it. The background shows a red fuse block and other engine parts.

Generator/Battery  
Control Module

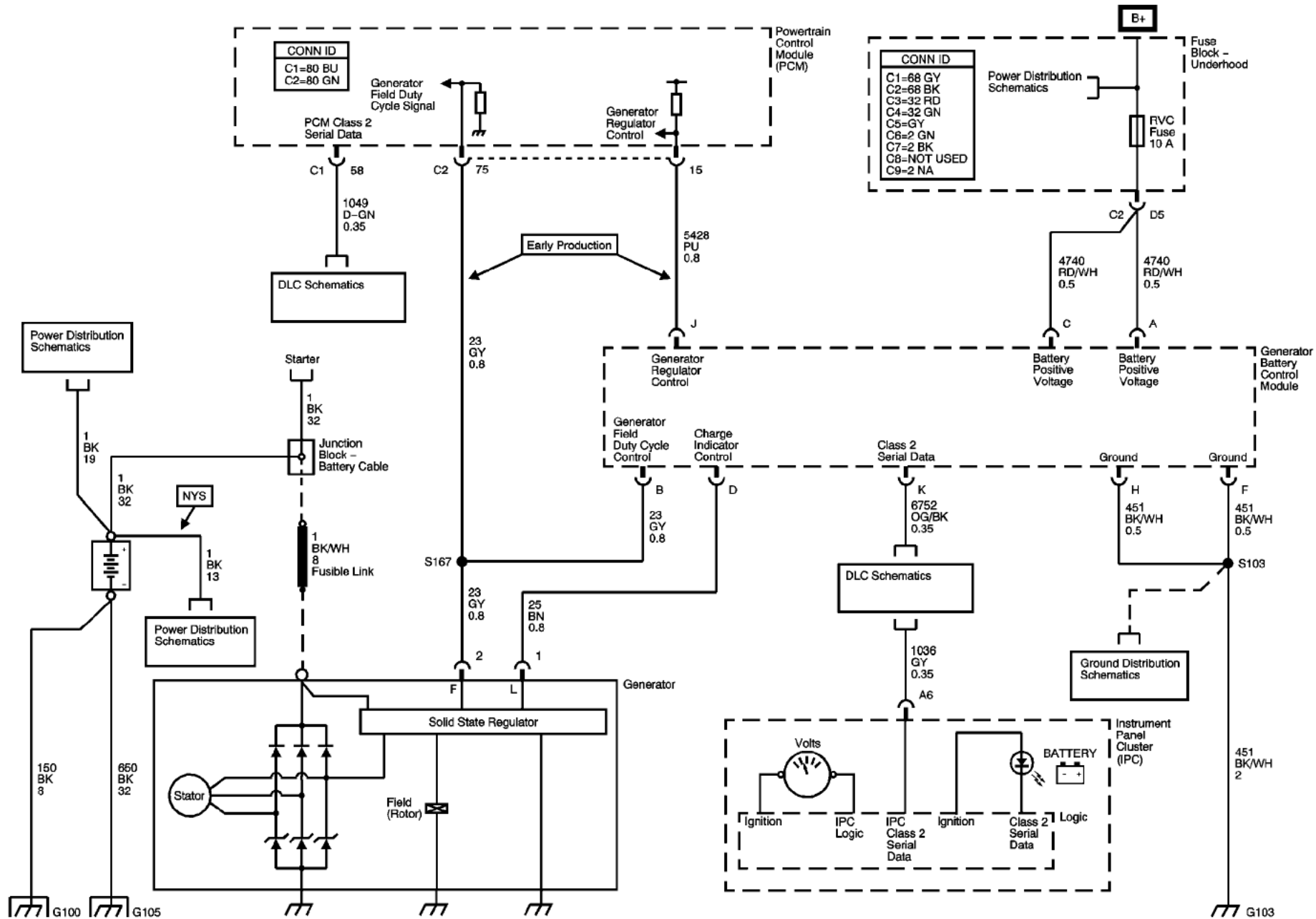


# Powertrain Control Module



- Inputs:
  - Intake Air Temperature
  - Fuel Grams Per Second
  - Throttle Position
  - Engine Coolant Temperature
  - Ambient Air Temperature

# Charging – except L18 or NYS



# Charging Modes



- 9 Charging Modes
- Based on PCM Parameters and Battery Condition
- Controlled by the Generator/Battery Control Module
- Pulse Width Modulated at 126 Hz +/- 5%
- Duty cycle limited to 5-99%
- 100% Duty cycle with communication problems

# Charging Modes



- Charge Mode
- Fuel Economy Mode
- Voltage Reduction Mode
- Start Up Mode
- Headlamp Mode
- Battery Sulfation Protection Mode
- Windshield Wiper Voltage Boost Mode
- Fuel Pump Voltage Boost Mode
- De-Ice Voltage Boost Mode

# Charge Mode



- Baseline
- At least one condition met:
  - Cooling fans are on high speed
  - Rear defogger is ON.
  - Battery state is less than 80%
  - The battery current is not between -8 and 15 amps
  - Ambient air temperature less than 32° F
  - DTC B1516 is set (battery current sensor out of range)
- Output voltage: 13.9-15.5V
  - Based on battery temperature

# Fuel Economy Mode



- All of the conditions are met:
  - Ambient air temperature is greater than 32° F
  - Battery Current is less than 15 amperes
  - 80% state of charge
  - Rear defoggers turned OFF
  - Cooling fans are on low speed or OFF.
- Output voltage: 13V

# Voltage Reduction Mode



- Ambient air temperature is above 32° F
- Battery current is less than 2 amperes
- Generator field cycle is less than 99%
- Rear defoggers OFF
- Cooling fans low speed or OFF
- Output voltage: 12.9V

# Other Modes



- Start-Up Mode
  - Charges at 14.5 V for 30 seconds after start-up
- Headlamp Mode
  - Charges at 14.5V when the low or high beams are ON
- Battery Sulfation Mode
  - If charging voltage is less than 13.2 V for 45 minutes
  - Charge Mode for 3 minutes
- Windshield Wiper Voltage Boost Mode
  - Charges at 14.5V after the wipers have been on for 8 seconds



# Other Modes



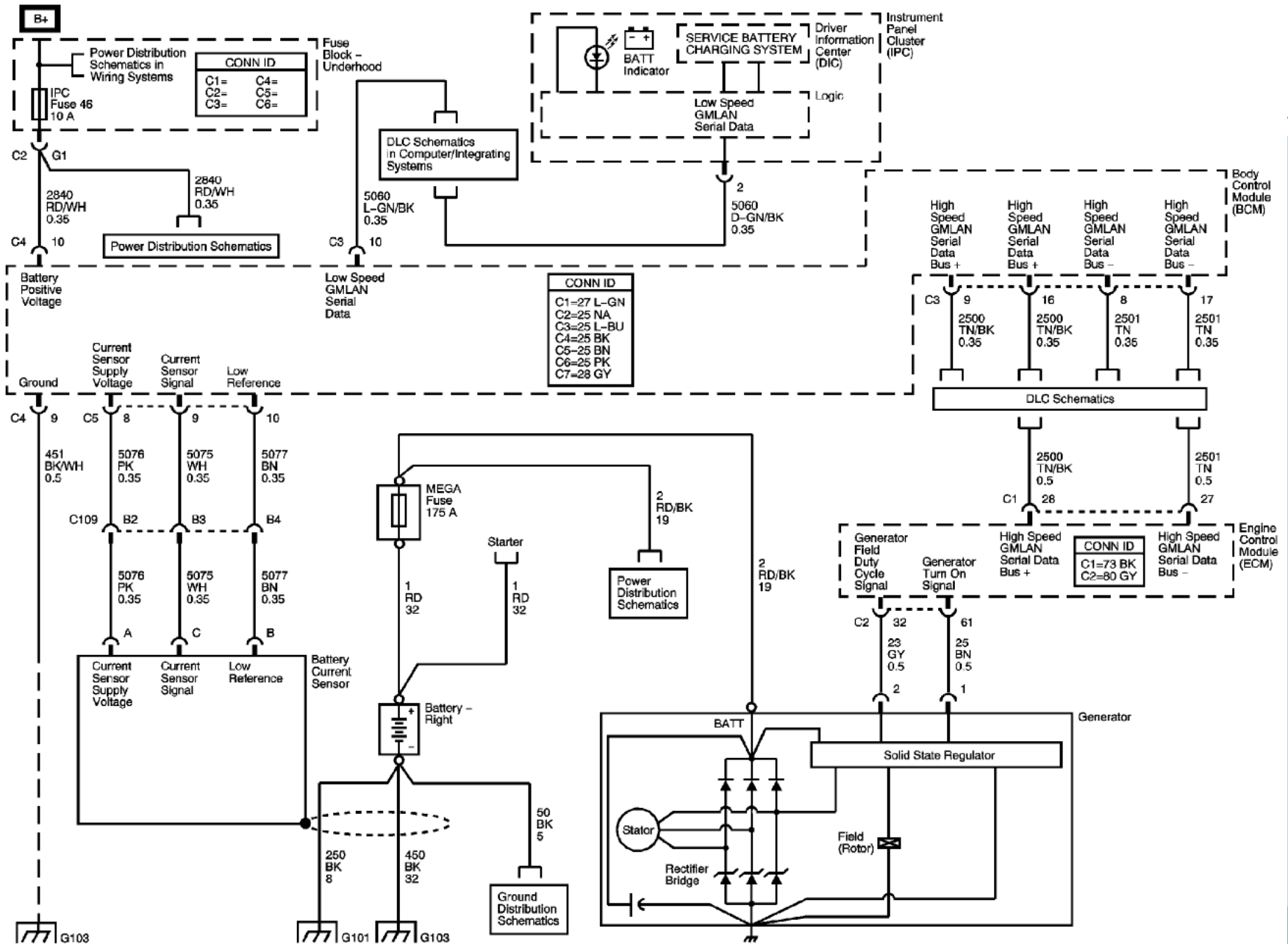
- Fuel Pump Voltage Boost Mode
  - If fuel flow is greater than 21K grams/second and the TPS is greater than 90%
  - Change from Fuel Economy or Voltage reduction Mode to Charging at 13.4V
  - If fuel flow is less than 5K grams/ second the charging system will go back to Charge, Fuel Economy, or Voltage Reduction Mode.
- De-Ice Voltage Boost Mode
  - If ambient air temperature is less than 28.4 °F and the ECT is less than 167 °F
  - Will enter into Charge Mode 13.9-15.5V

# Newer Models



- PCM controls generator field circuit
- BCM monitors Battery Current Sensor
- 6 Charging Modes
  - Charge Mode
  - Voltage Reduction Mode
  - Fuel Economy Mode
  - Battery Sulfation Mode
  - Start Up Mode
  - Headlamp Mode

# Charging



# 01 Dodge Durango

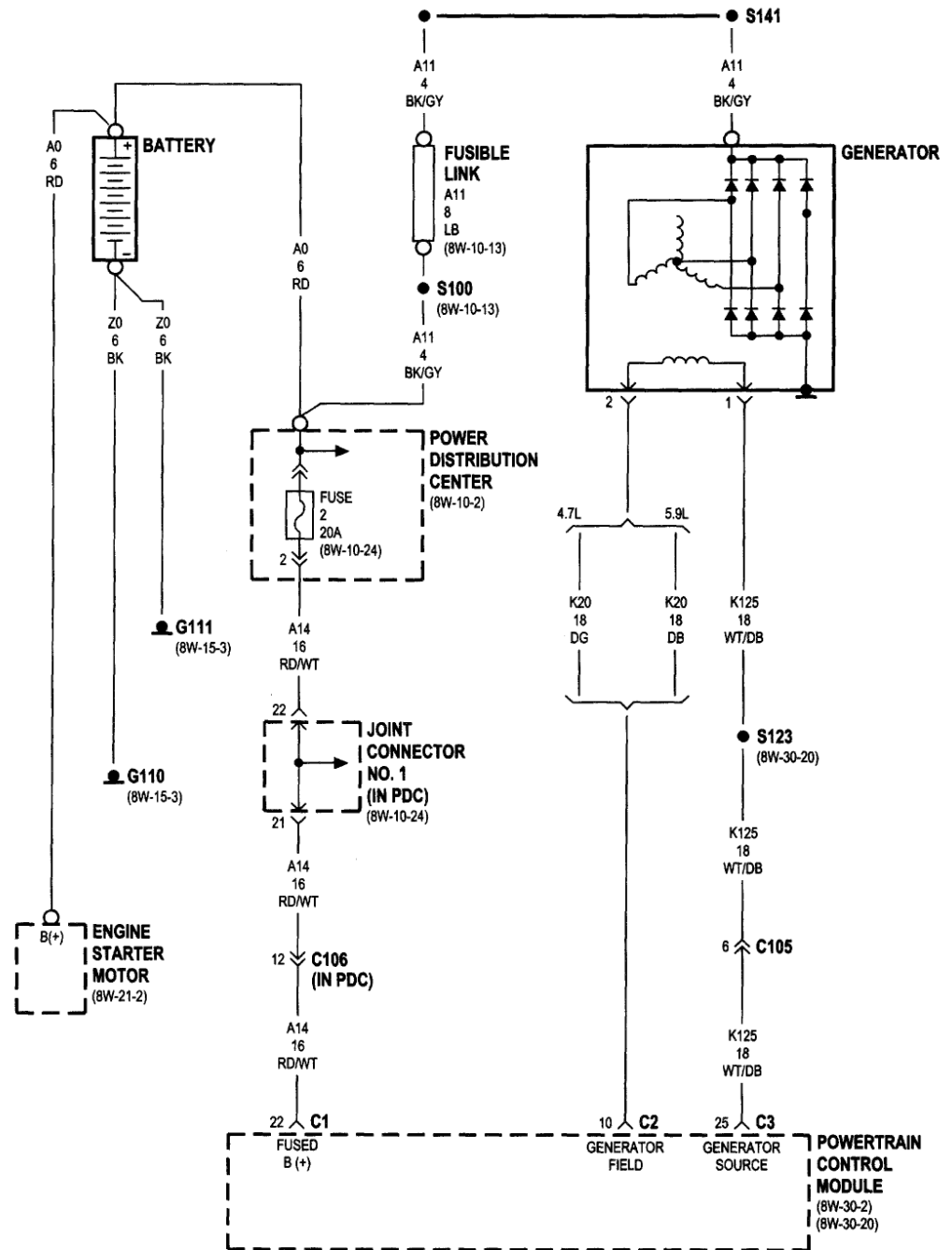


- PCM controlled
- Battery Temperature Sensor

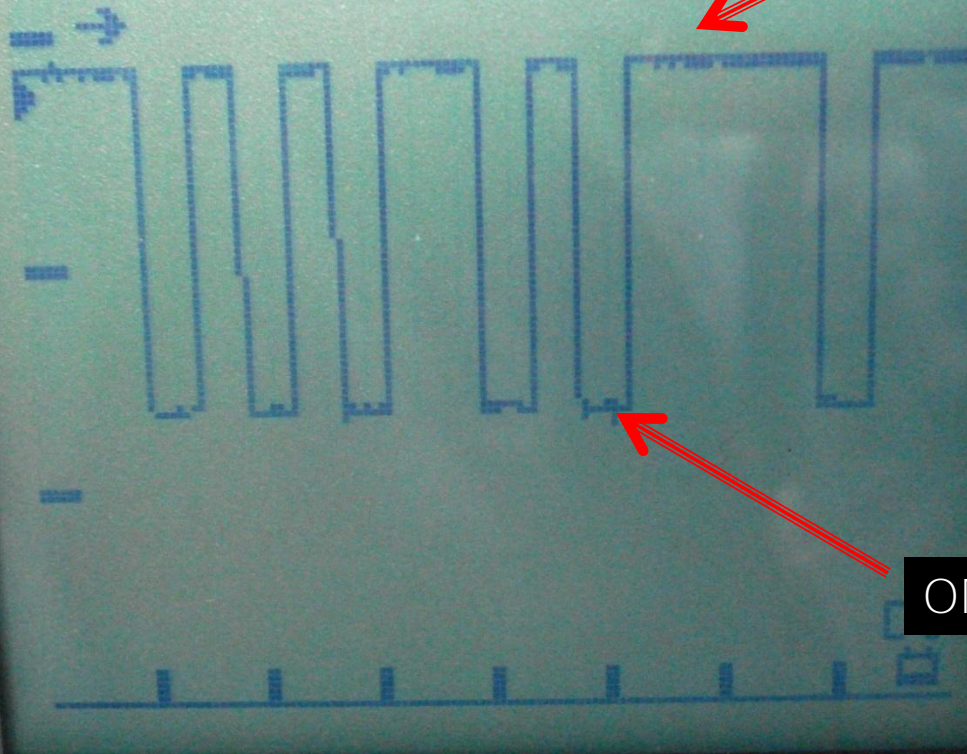


# 98-02

- Ground Controlled



AUTO S +3.1V 10V 10ms  
LOW BATTERY

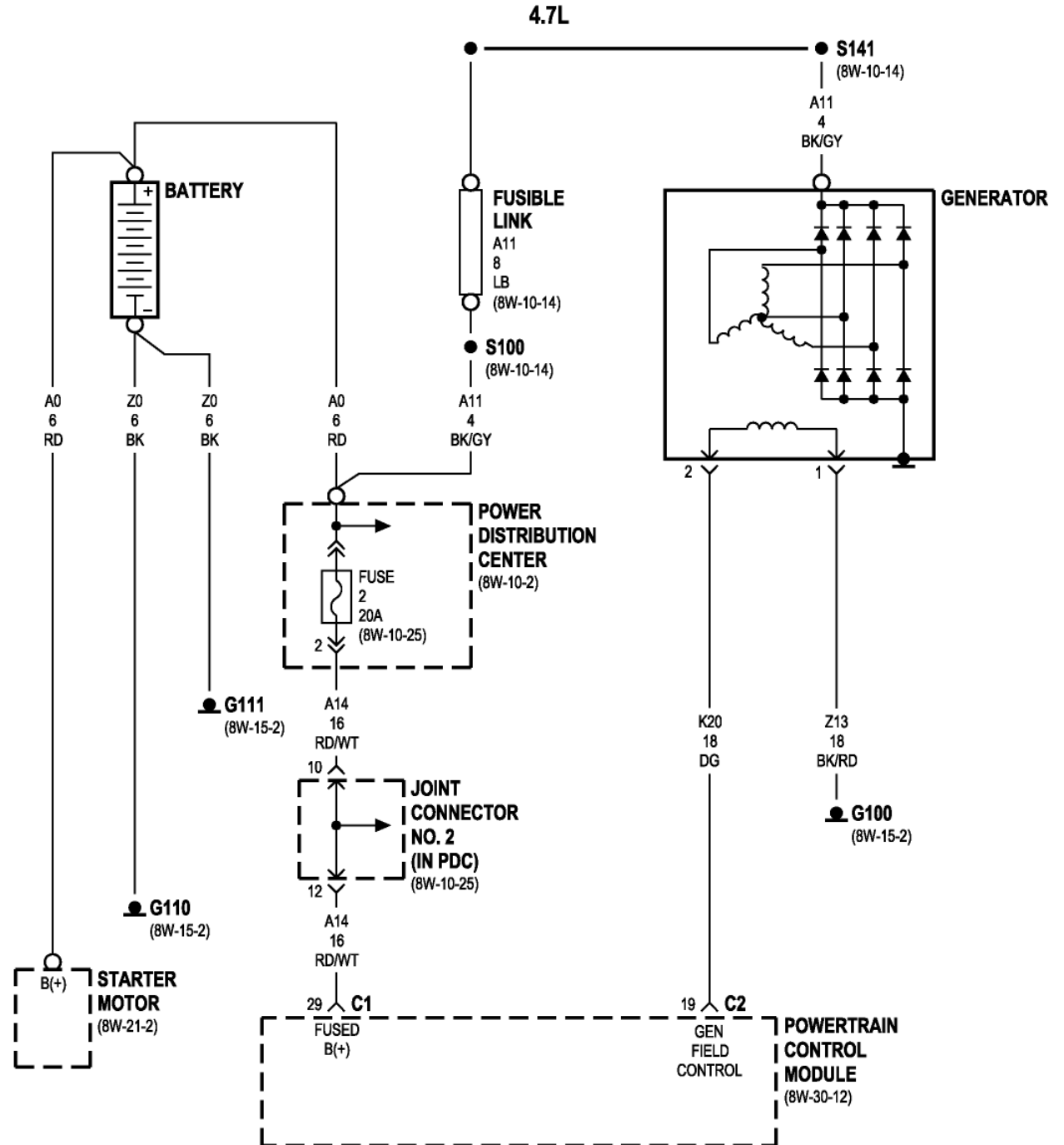


OFF Time

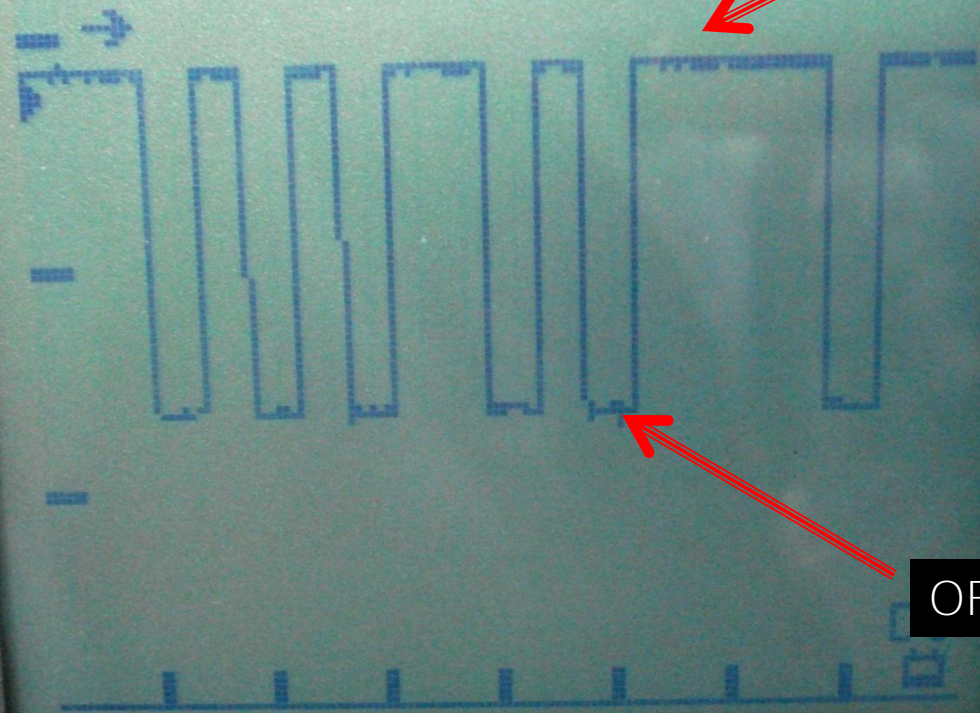
ON Time

03-08

- Power-side Controlled



AUTO S +3.1V 10V 10ms  
LOW BATTERY

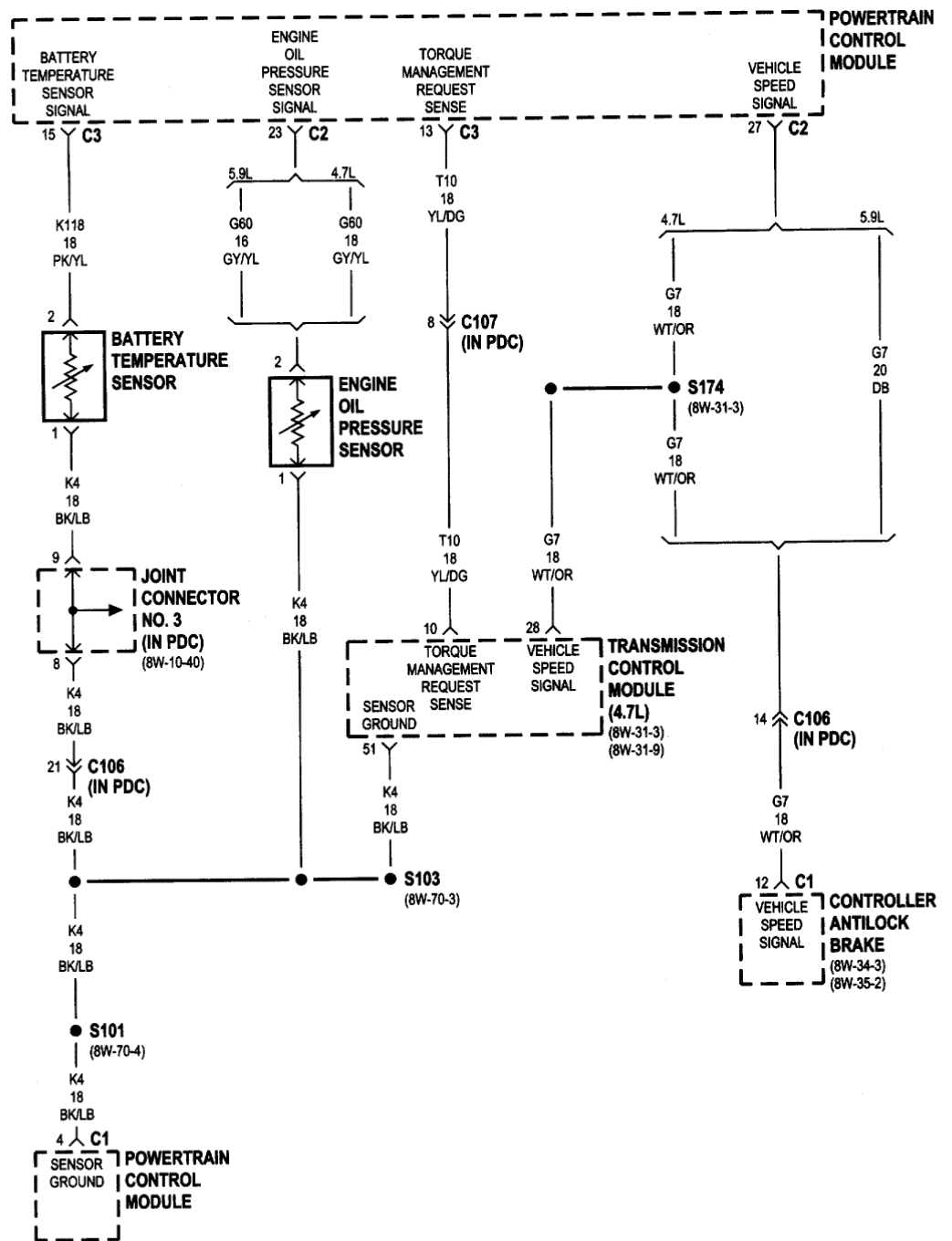


ON Time

OFF Time



# Battery Temp



# Battery Tray



# Battery Temperature Sensor



- Input to the PCM
- PCM Controls Charging Voltage
- Colder Higher Charge
- Warmer Lower Charge
- Thermistor
- Increases Resistance as Temperature Decreases



# Temperature/Charging



- 100 F 13.70V
- 90 F 13.77V
- 80 F 13.83V
- 70 F 13.96V
- 60 F 14.10V
- 50 F 14.22V
- 40 °F 14.34V
- 30 °F 14.40V
- 20 °F 14.51V
- 6 °F 14.70V
- -7 °F 14.76V
- Default
  - 89.6 F 13.84V

# DTC Battery Sensor Shorted

DRB III BIG

-- PCM DTCs 1 of 2 --

AMBIENT/BATT TEMP SEN  
VOLTS TOO LOW

Chrysler Hex Code : \$99

SAE Trouble Code : P 1493

DTC Specific Good Trips : 0

Starts Since Set : 0

Last Key Pressed: Enter

# DTC Battery Sensor Open

DRB III BIG

-- PCM DTCs 2 of 2 --

AMBIENT/BATT TEMP SEN  
VOLTS TOO HIGH

Chrysler Hex Code : \$9a

SAE Trouble Code : P 1492

DTC Specific Good Trips : 0

Starts Since Set : 8

Last Key Pressed:

# Honda's Charging System

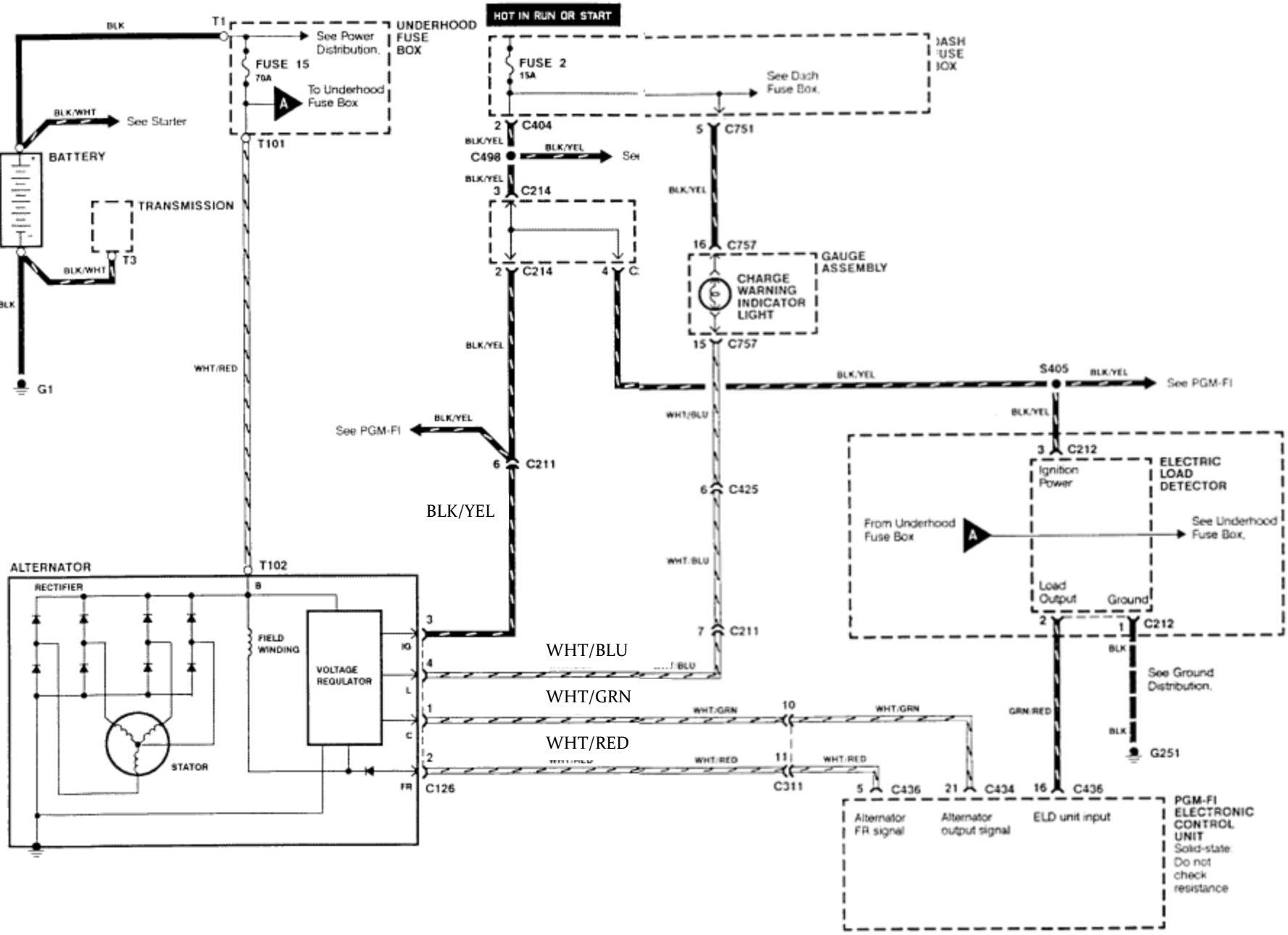


- Two Charging Modes
  - PWM Regulated
  - Electric Load Detector
- Improves Fuel Economy
- Consistent in Most Honda and Acura

# Honda Accord 1990







**HOT IN RUN OR START**

See Power Distribution.  
 FUSE 15  
 70A  
 To Underhood Fuse Box

FUSE 2  
 15A  
 See Dash Fuse Box.

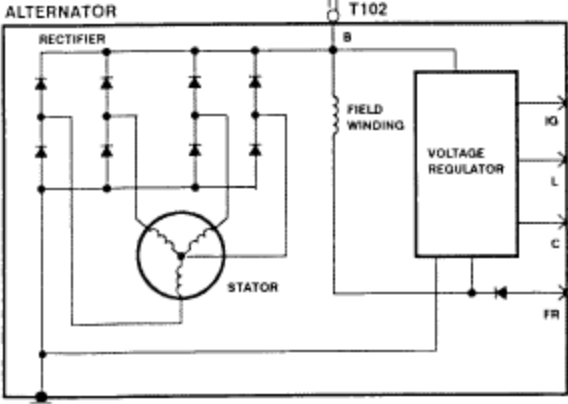
DASH FUSE BOX

TRANSMISSION

GAUGE ASSEMBLY  
 CHARGE WARNING INDICATOR LIGHT

ELECTRIC LOAD DETECTOR  
 Ignition Power  
 Load Output  
 Ground  
 See Underhood Fuse Box

PGM-FI ELECTRONIC CONTROL UNIT  
 Solid-state.  
 Do not check resistance



See PGM-FI  
 BLK/YEL

WHT/BLU

WHT/GRN

WHT/RED

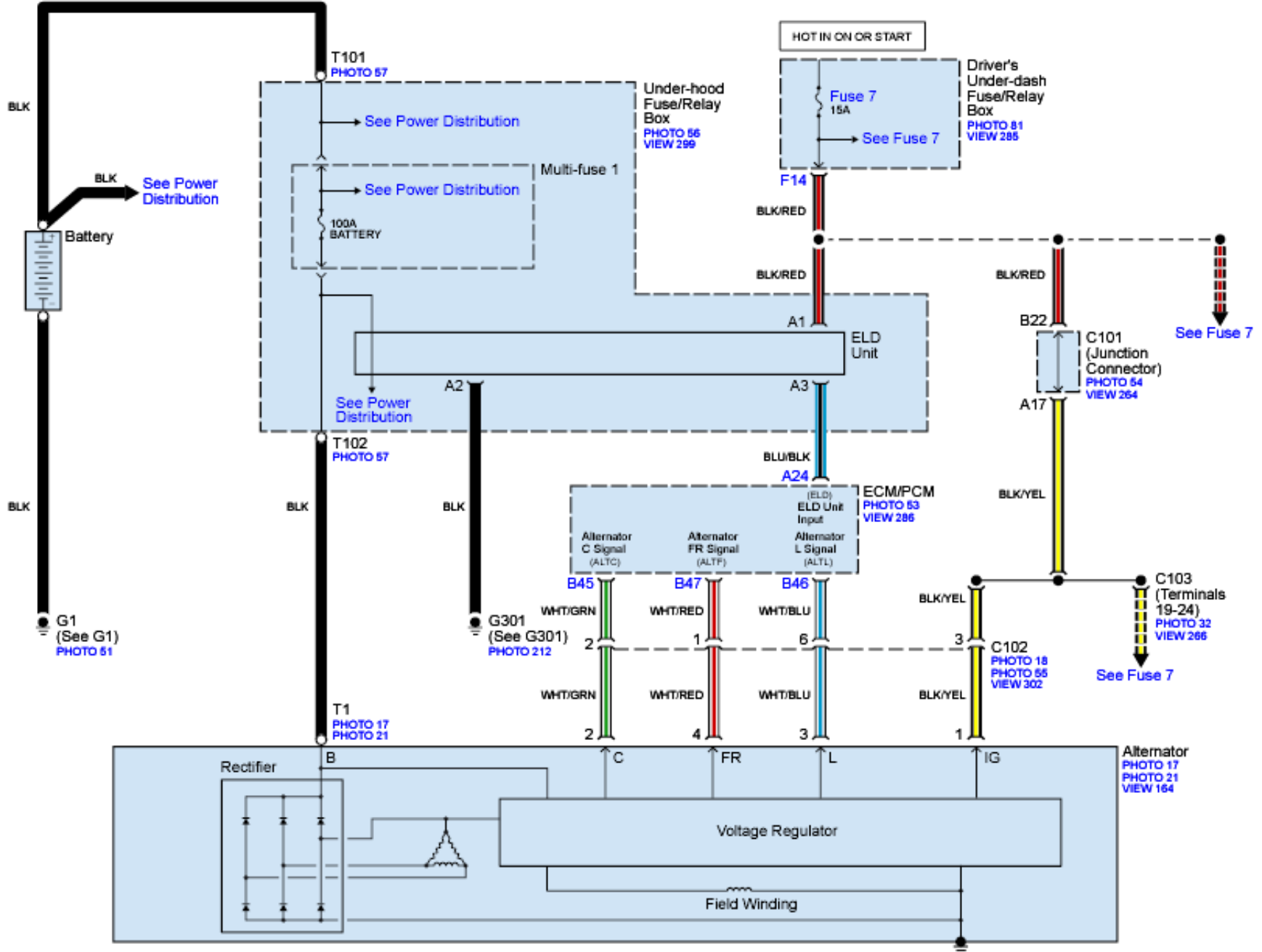
See Ground Distribution.

G251

Alternator FR signal  
 Alternator output signal  
 ELD unit input

# 2008 Honda Accord



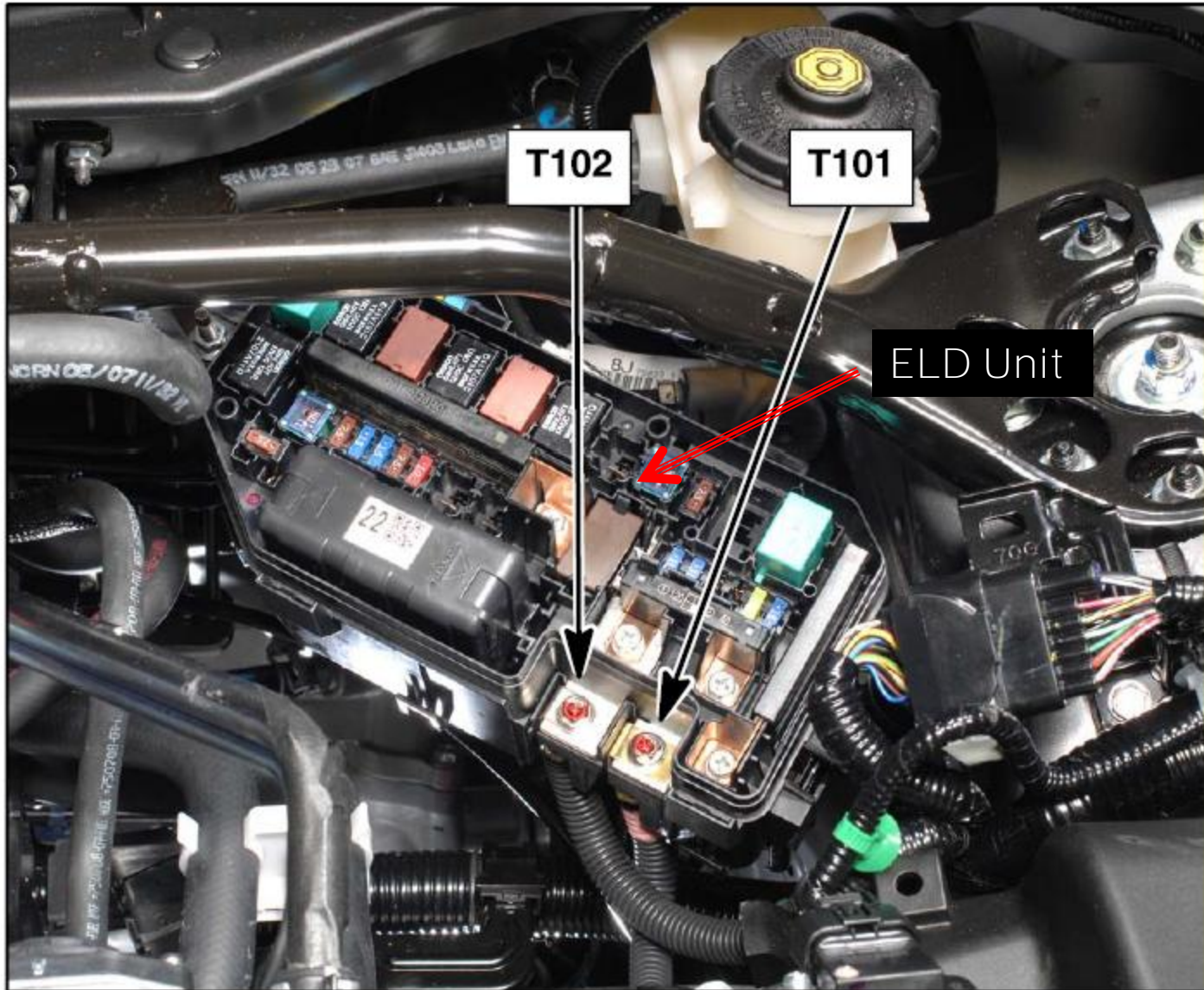


# Components

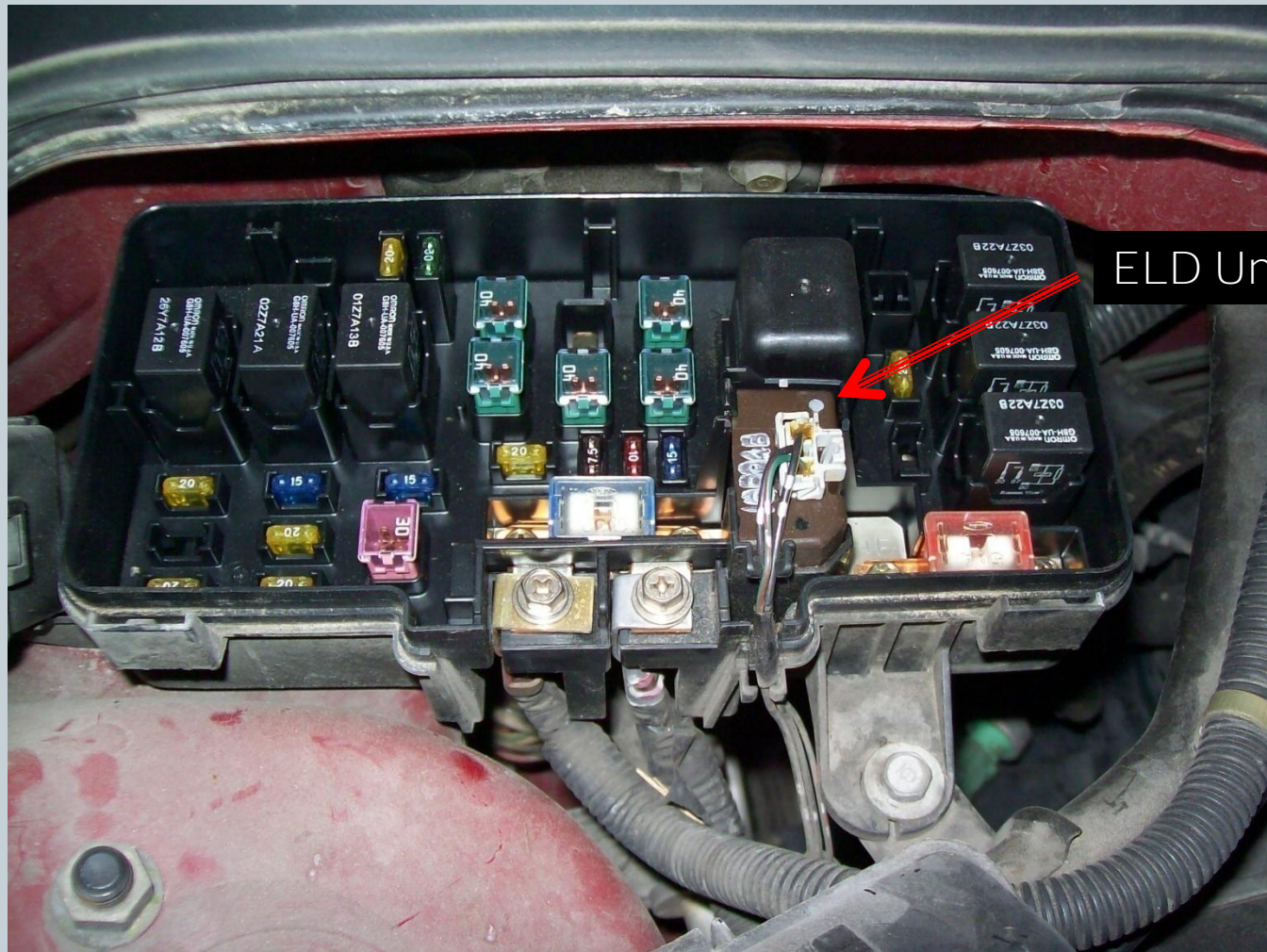


- Alternator
- Electric Load Detector (ELD)
- Powertrain Control Module (PCM)
- Ignition Switch
- Battery
- Indicator Lamp
- Wiring harness and connections

# 2008 Civic SI



# 1999 Honda Accord



ELD Unit

# 2000 Honda Civic

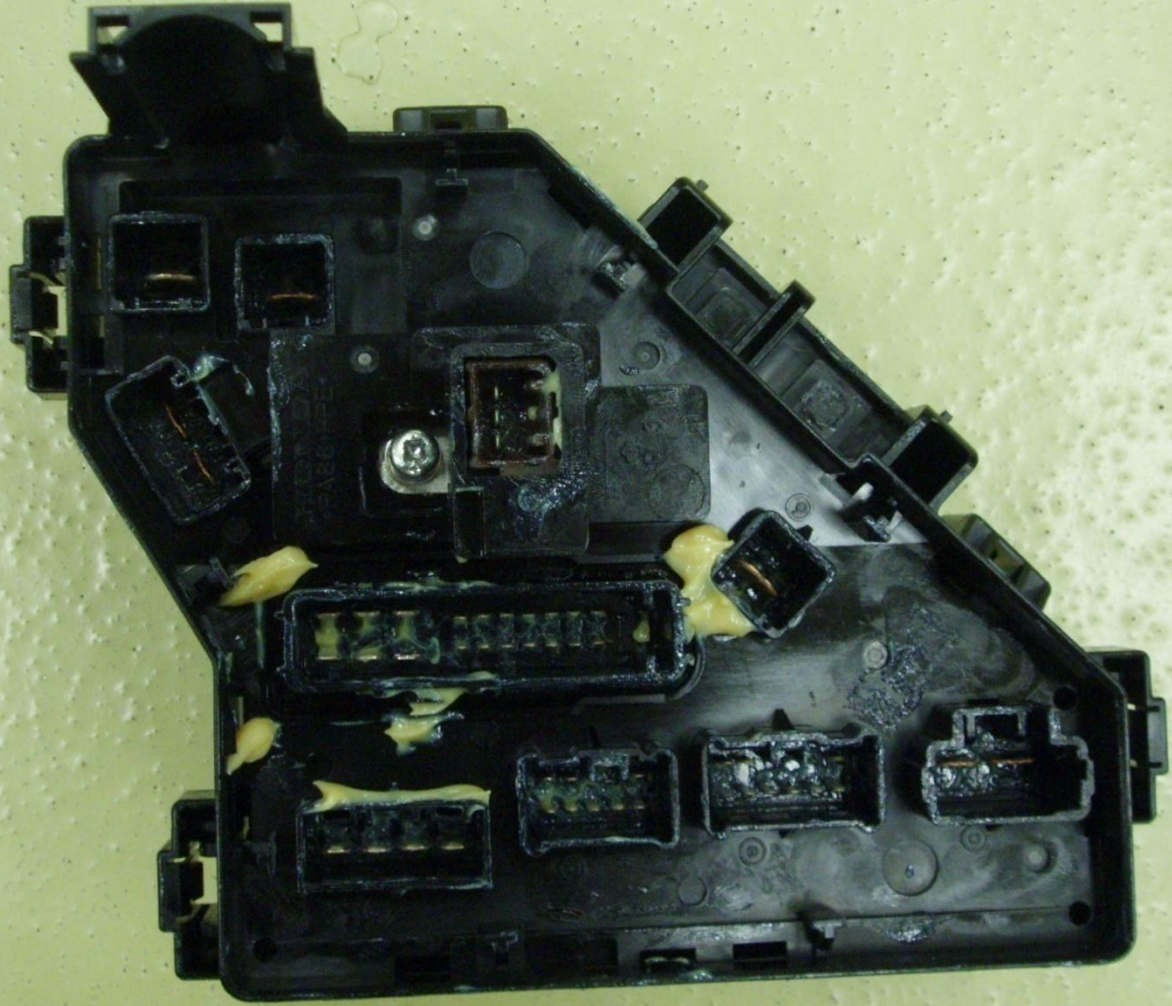


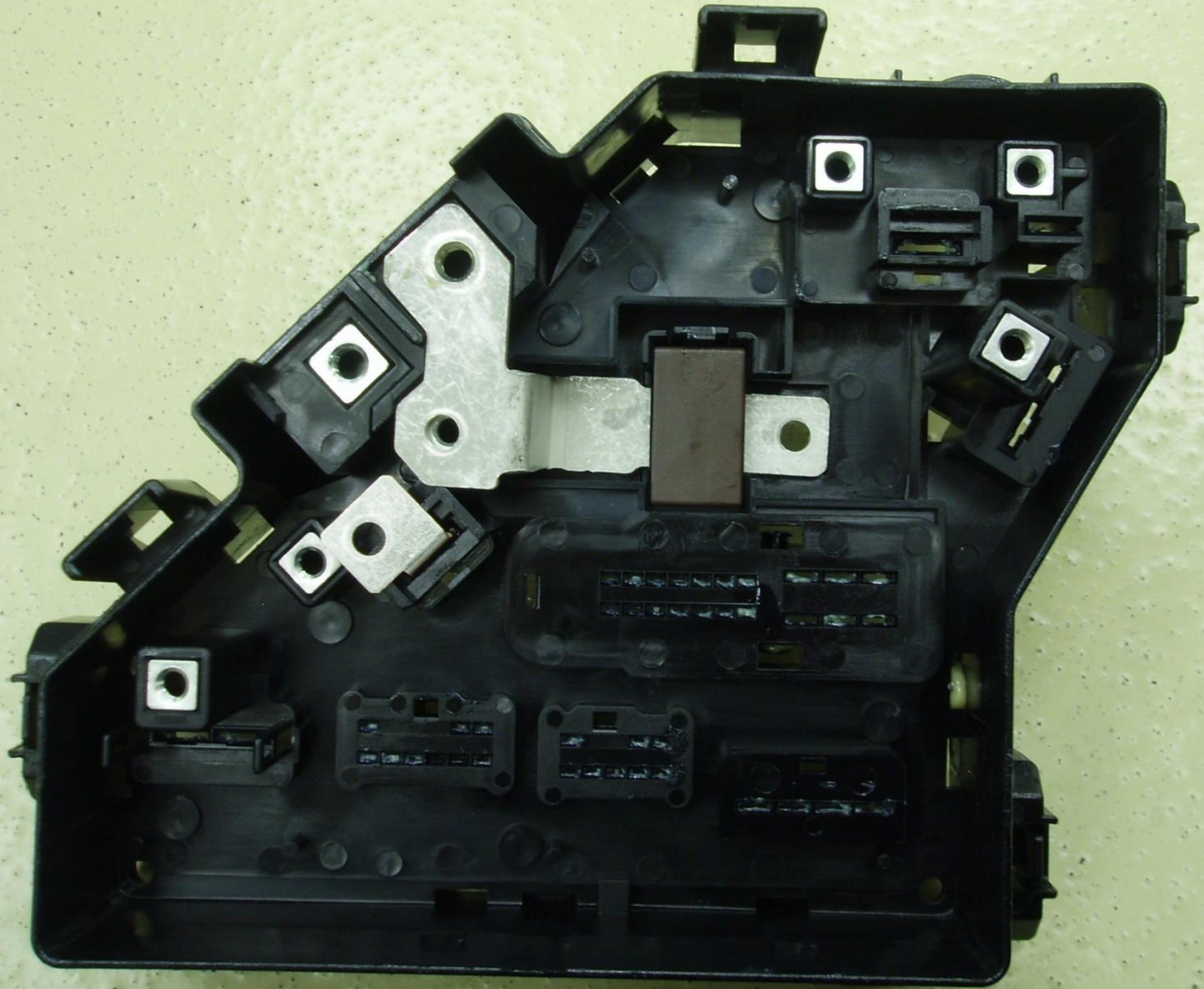
ELD Unit

# 2004 Acura RSX











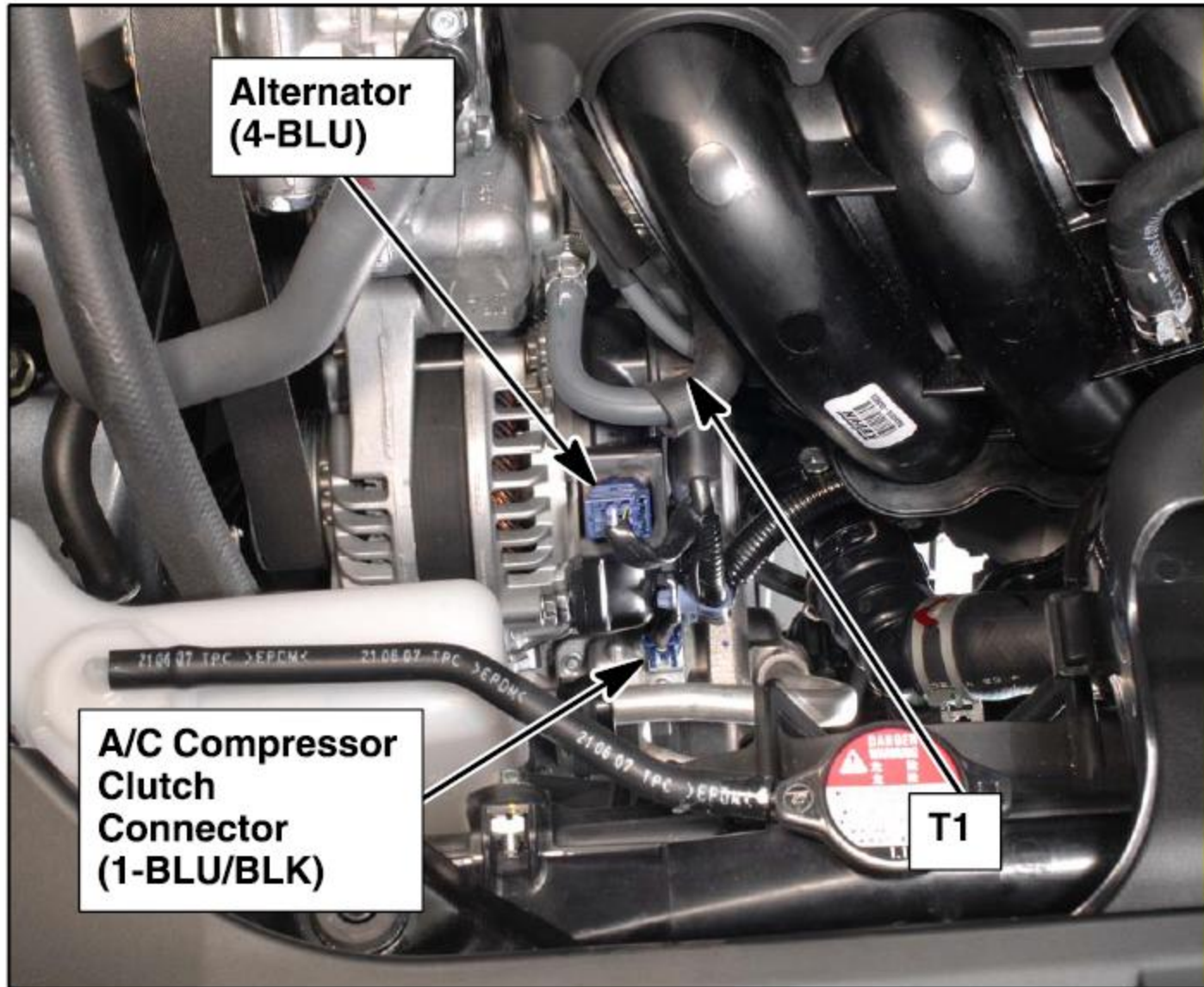


**ECM/PCM**

**Connector A  
(49-BLK/WHT)**

**Connector B  
(49-BLK/GRY)  
(Behind)**

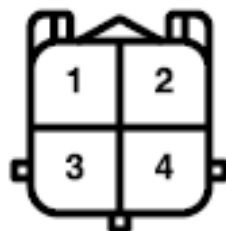
**Connector C  
(49-BLK/GRN)  
(Behind)**



## Connector Terminal Views

### 164. Alternator

- BLU
- Front of Engine



#### L4:

- On Starter Sub-harness

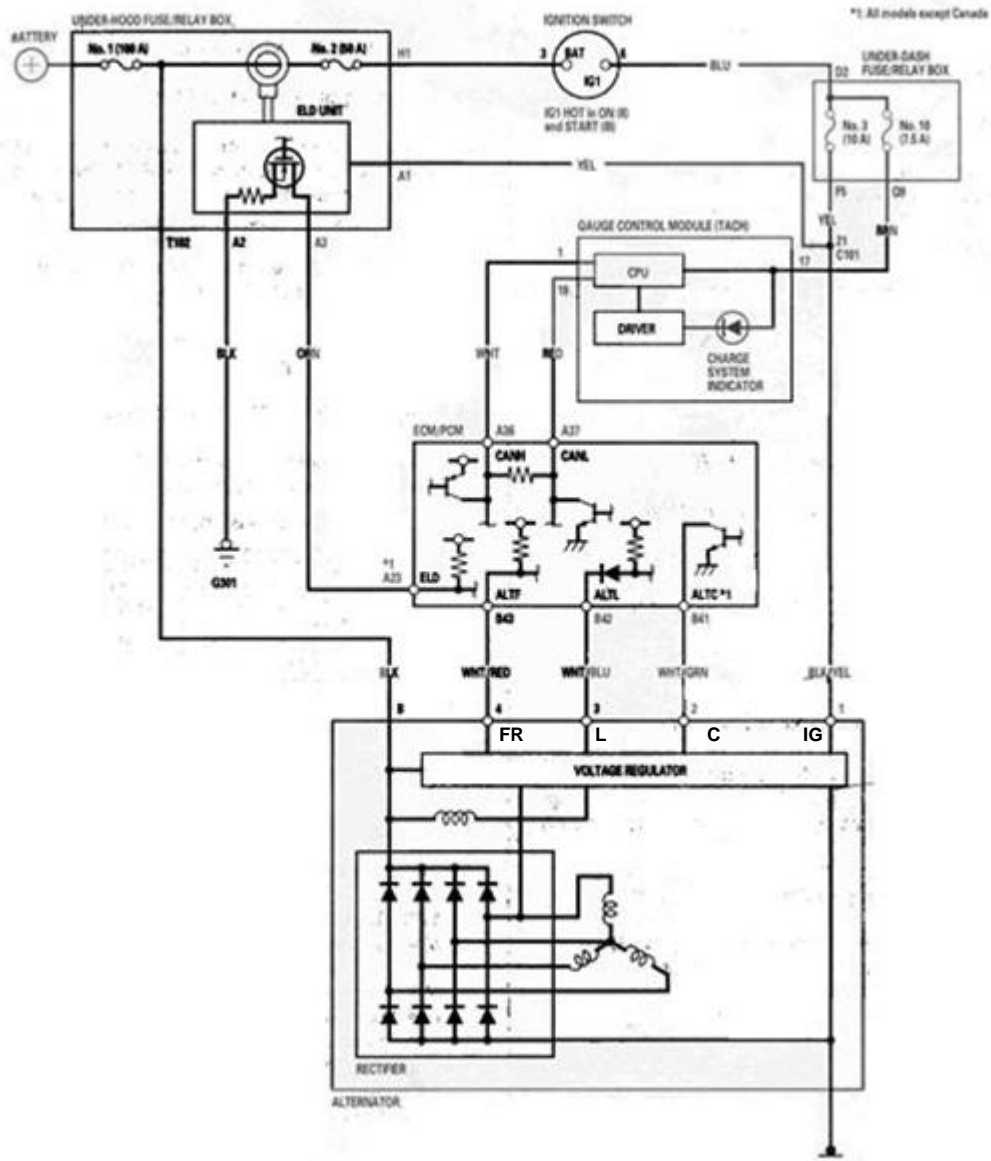
1. BLK/YEL (Fuse 7 – Driver's)
2. WHT/GRN (ALTC)
3. WHT/BLU (ALTL)
4. WHT/RED (ALTF)

#### V6:

- On Engine Wire Harness

1. BLK/YEL (Fuse 7 – Driver's)
2. WHT/GRN (ALTC)
3. WHT/BLU (ALTL)
4. WHT/RED (ALTF)

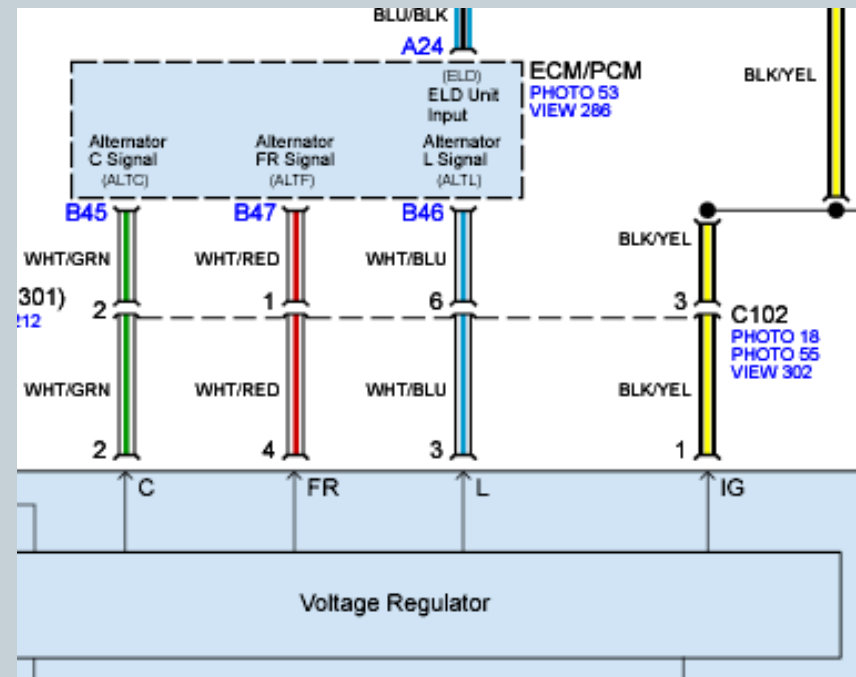
# Circuit Diagram



# Terminals



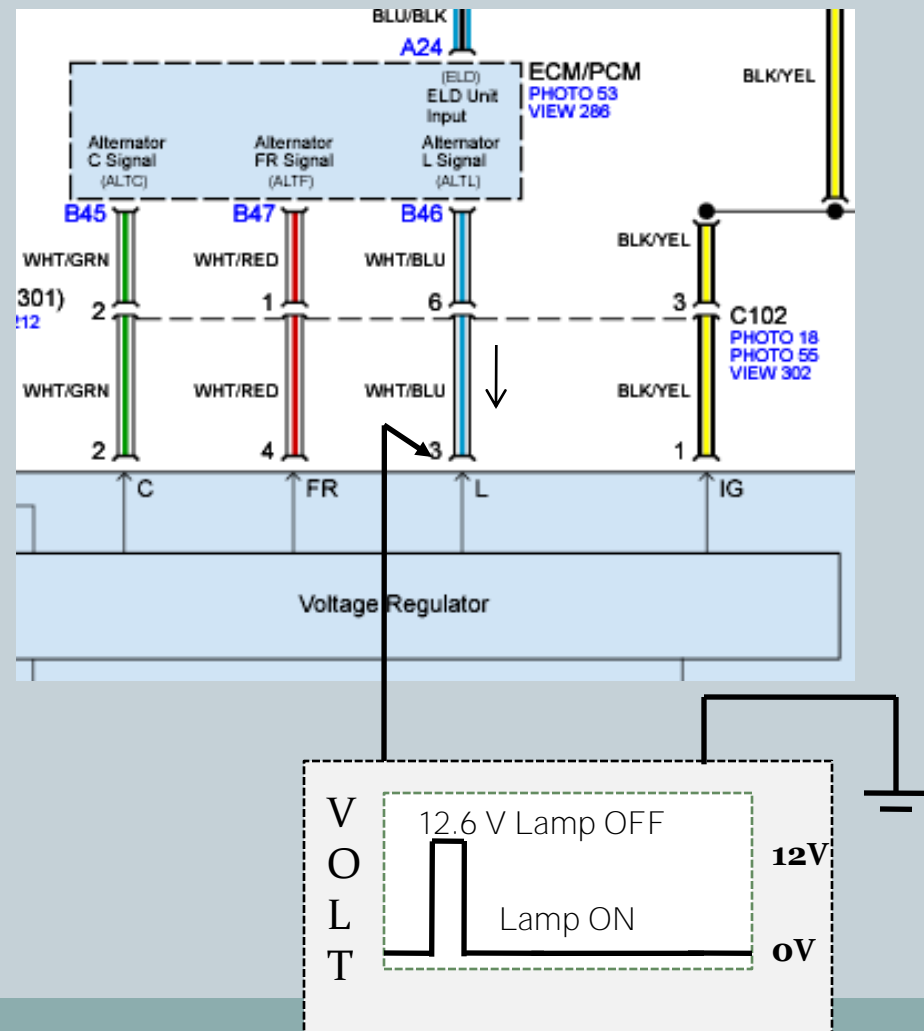
- **L**- Indicator Lamp Circuit
- **IG**- Powers the Voltage Regulator
- **C**- Controls Charging Voltage (14.5 or 12.5)
- **FR**- Input to the PCM



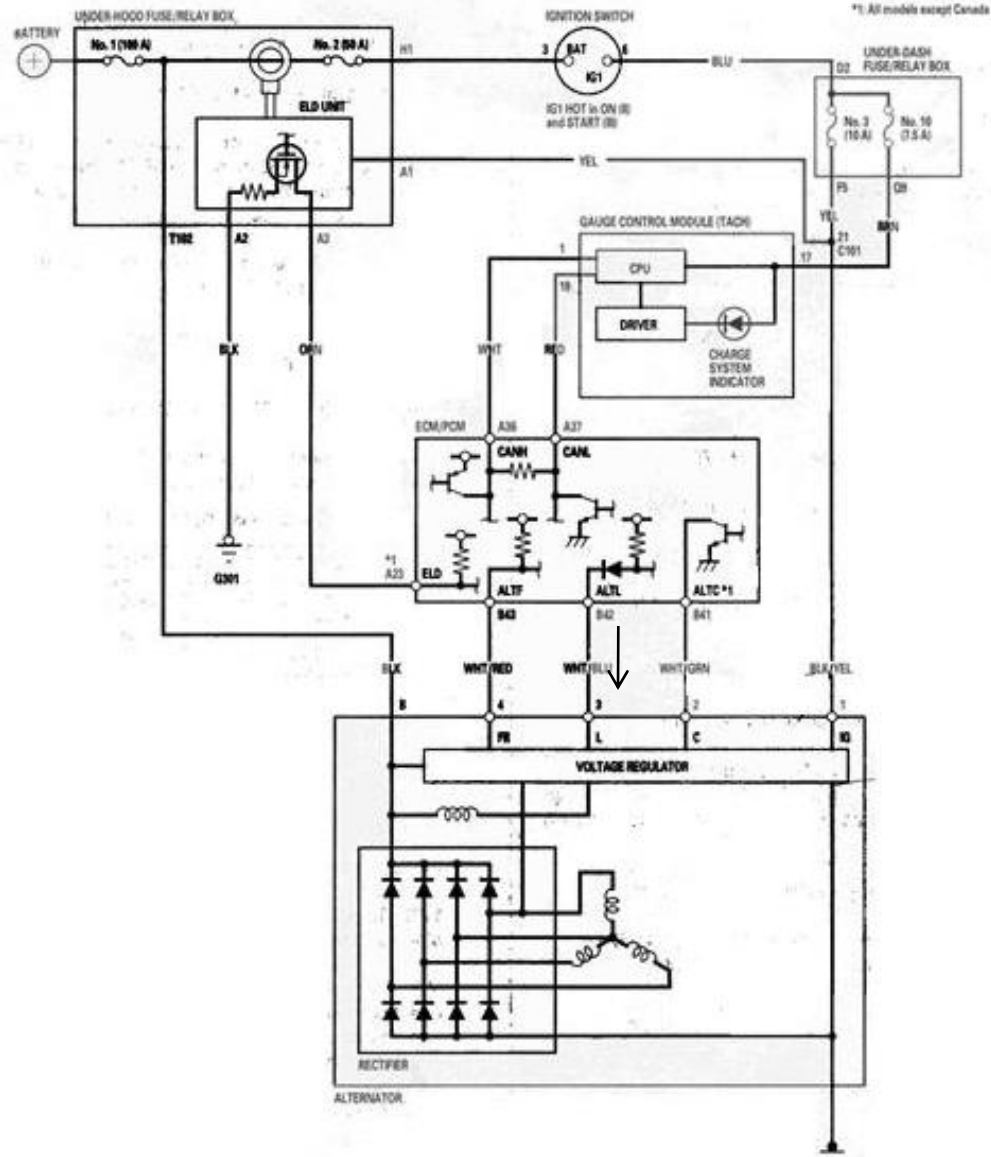


# L- Terminal

- The PCM senses the voltage at the L terminal.
- The Voltage Regulator grounds the L terminal to turn the Lamp ON and sends charging voltage to the PCM to turn the Lamp OFF.
  - 0V (Grounded) Light ON
  - Source Voltage Light OFF

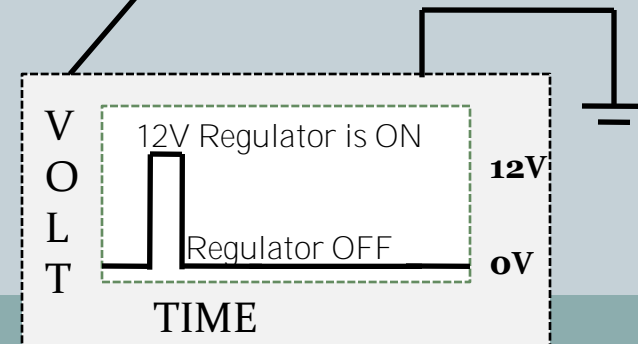
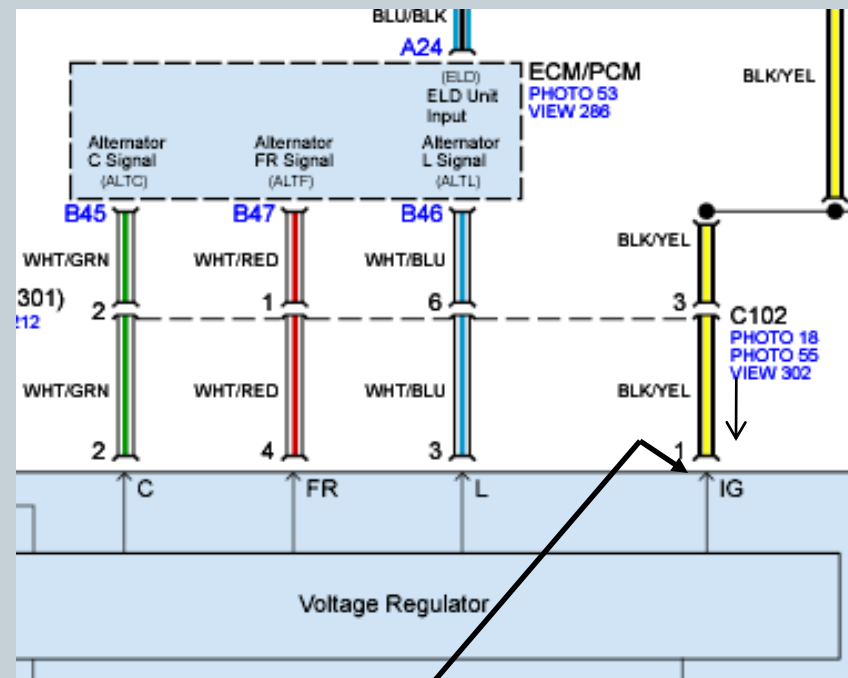


# Circuit Diagram

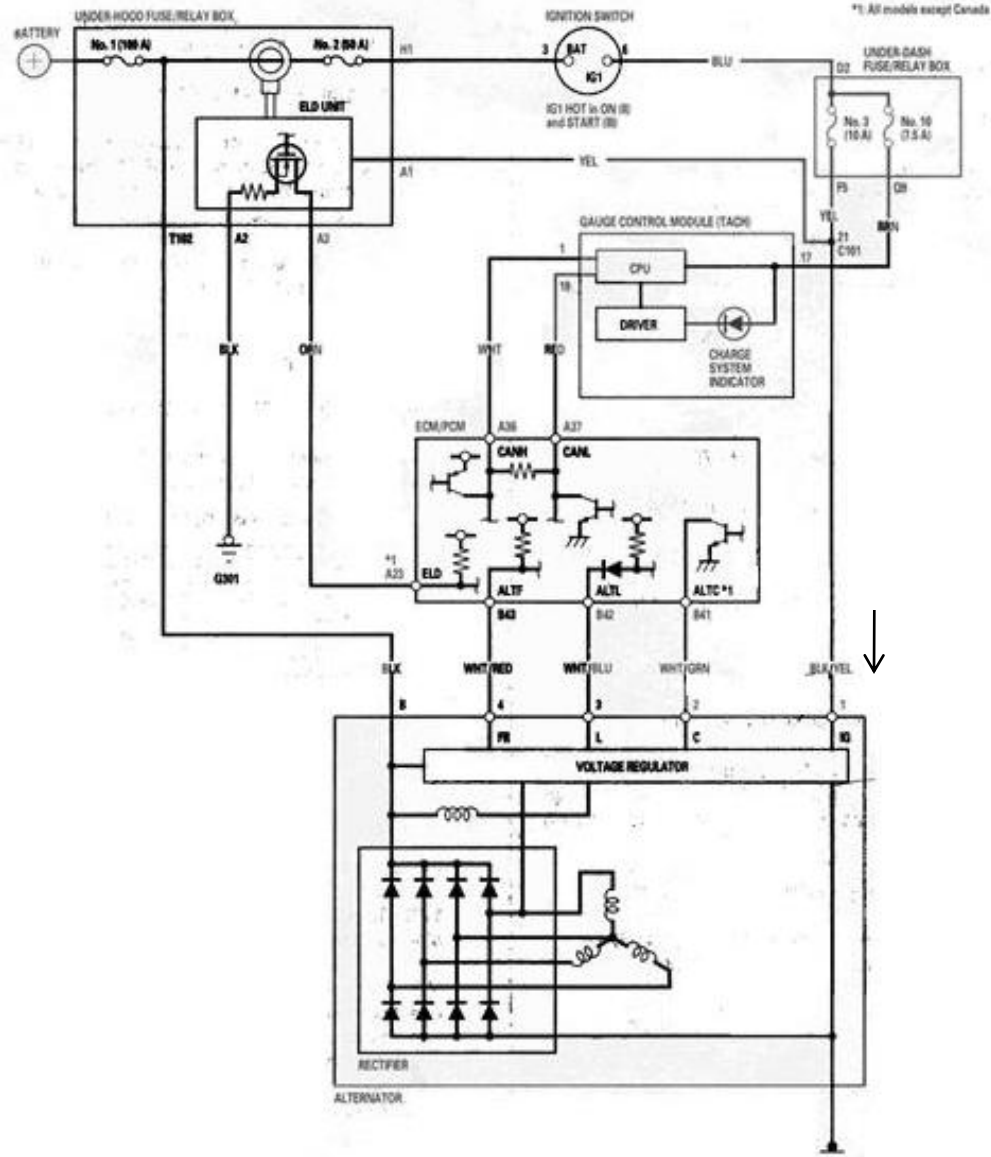


# IG- Terminal

- The Ignition switch provides the voltage to the IG Terminal.
- 12V at the IG terminal will turn the Regulator ON.
- 0 V at the IG terminal will turn the Regulator OFF.
- With out this the charging system will not function.

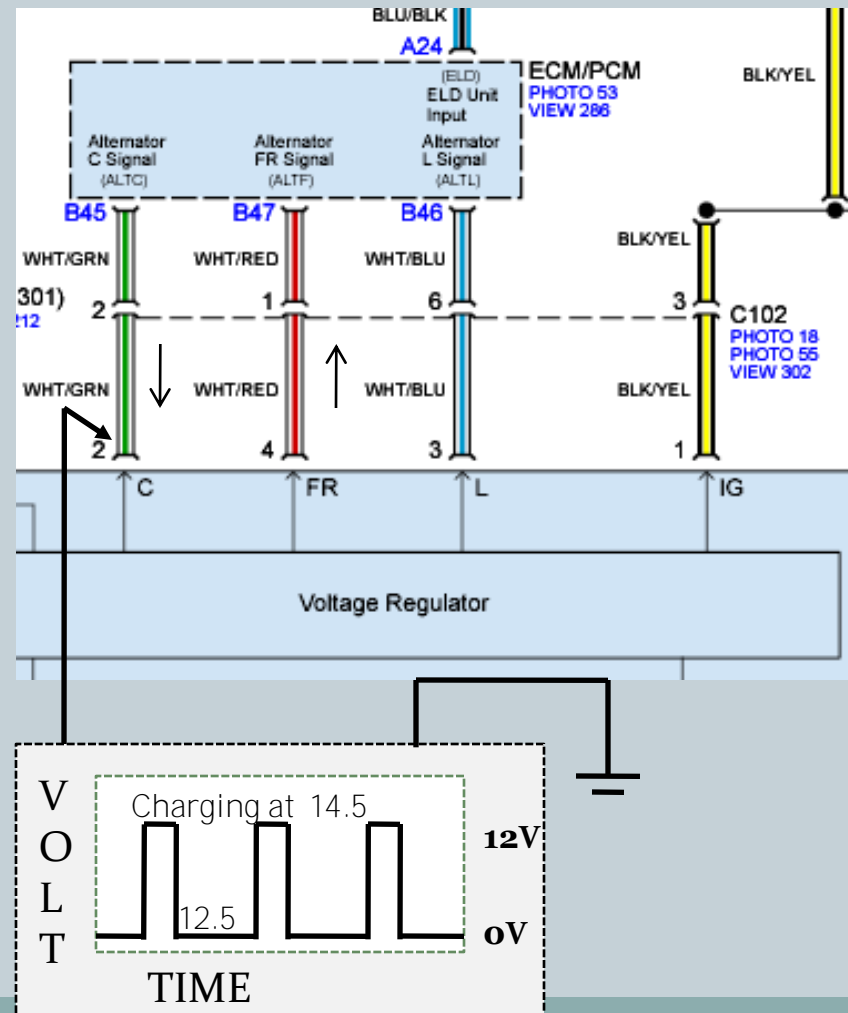


# Circuit Diagram

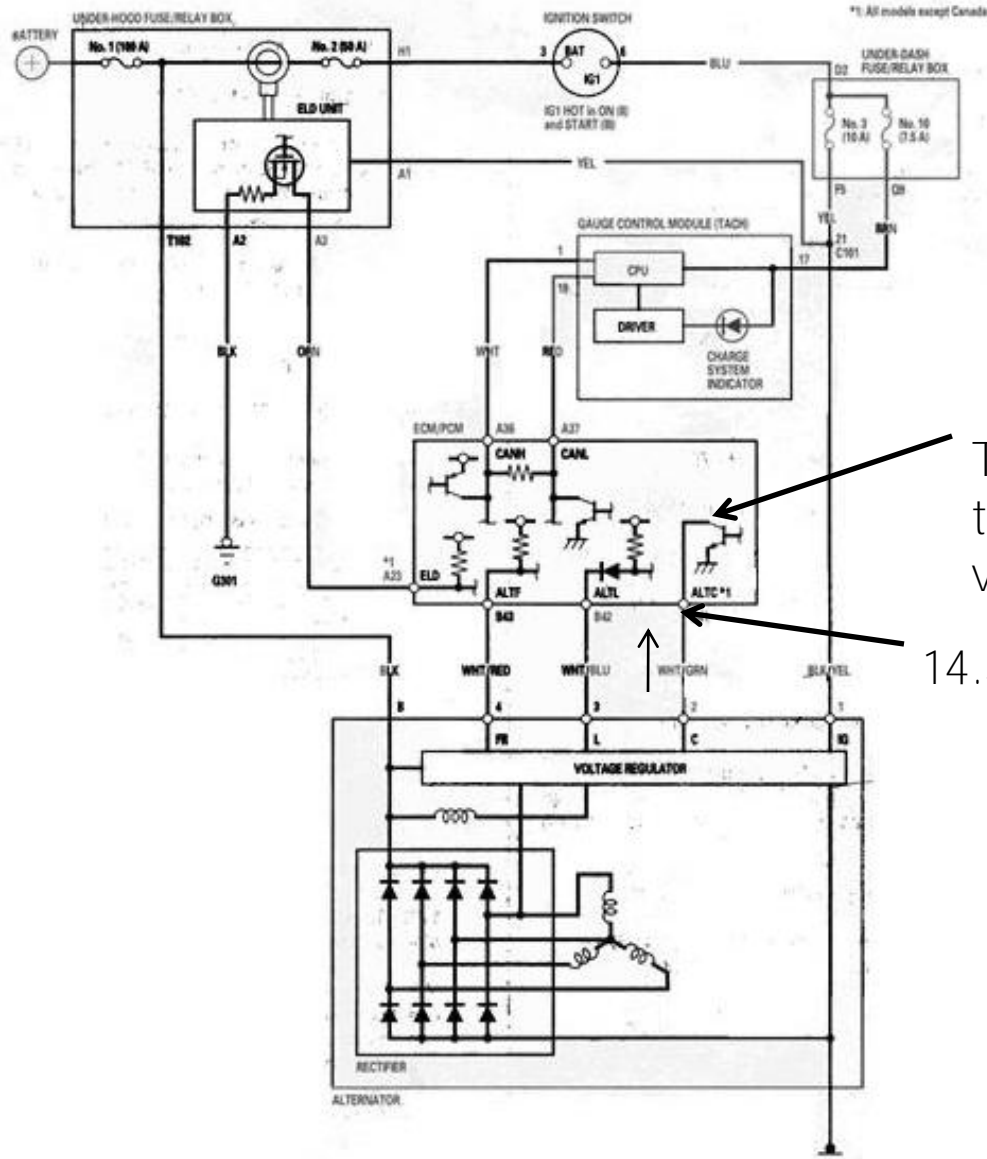


# C-Terminal

- Informs the Voltage Regulator to charge at 12.5V or 14.5V.
- The Voltage Regulator sends source voltage to the PCM.
- The PCM toggles the source voltage to ground when the parameters are met.
- Charging voltages drops to 12.5V



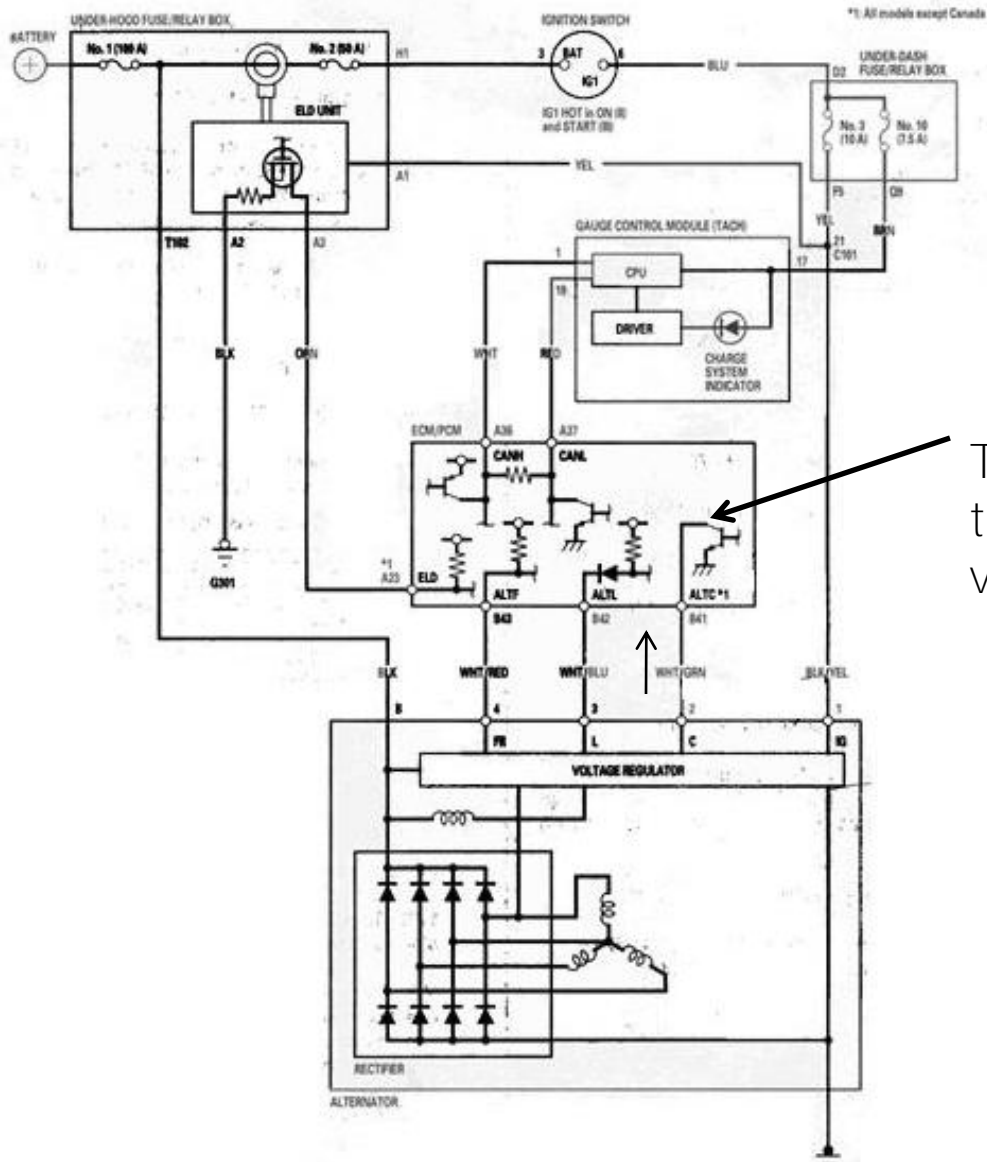
# Circuit Diagram



This transistor toggles the voltage.

14.5V

# Circuit Diagram



This transistor toggles the voltage.

# PCM Inputs



- Throttle Position Sensor (TPS)
- Coolant Temperature Sensor (ECT)
- Intake Air Temperature Sensor (IAT)
- Starter Switch Signal
- TDC/ Crank Sensor
- Speed Sensor (VSS)
- Transmission Position
- Electric Load Detector (ELD)
- Air Conditioning Signal



# Parameters to Charge at 12.5



- Vehicle is being Started (Starter Switch)
- OR
- Electrical Load below 13 Amps
  - Vehicle Speed between 10-45 mph
  - Engine Speed below 3,000 rpm
  - Coolant Temperature above 167 F (75 C)
  - A/C Switch Off
  - Intake Air Temperature above 68 F (20 C)
  - Not in Park
  - Fuel Cut-Off is not Performed

# From a Stop

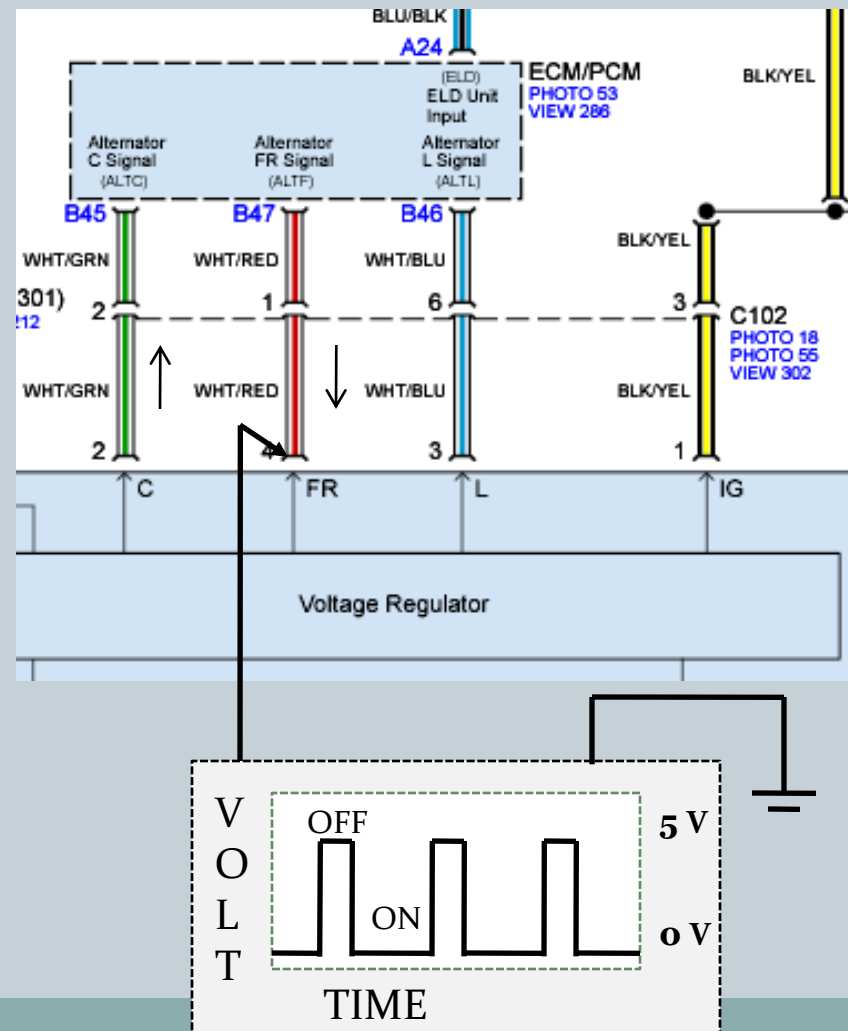


From 40-50 mph

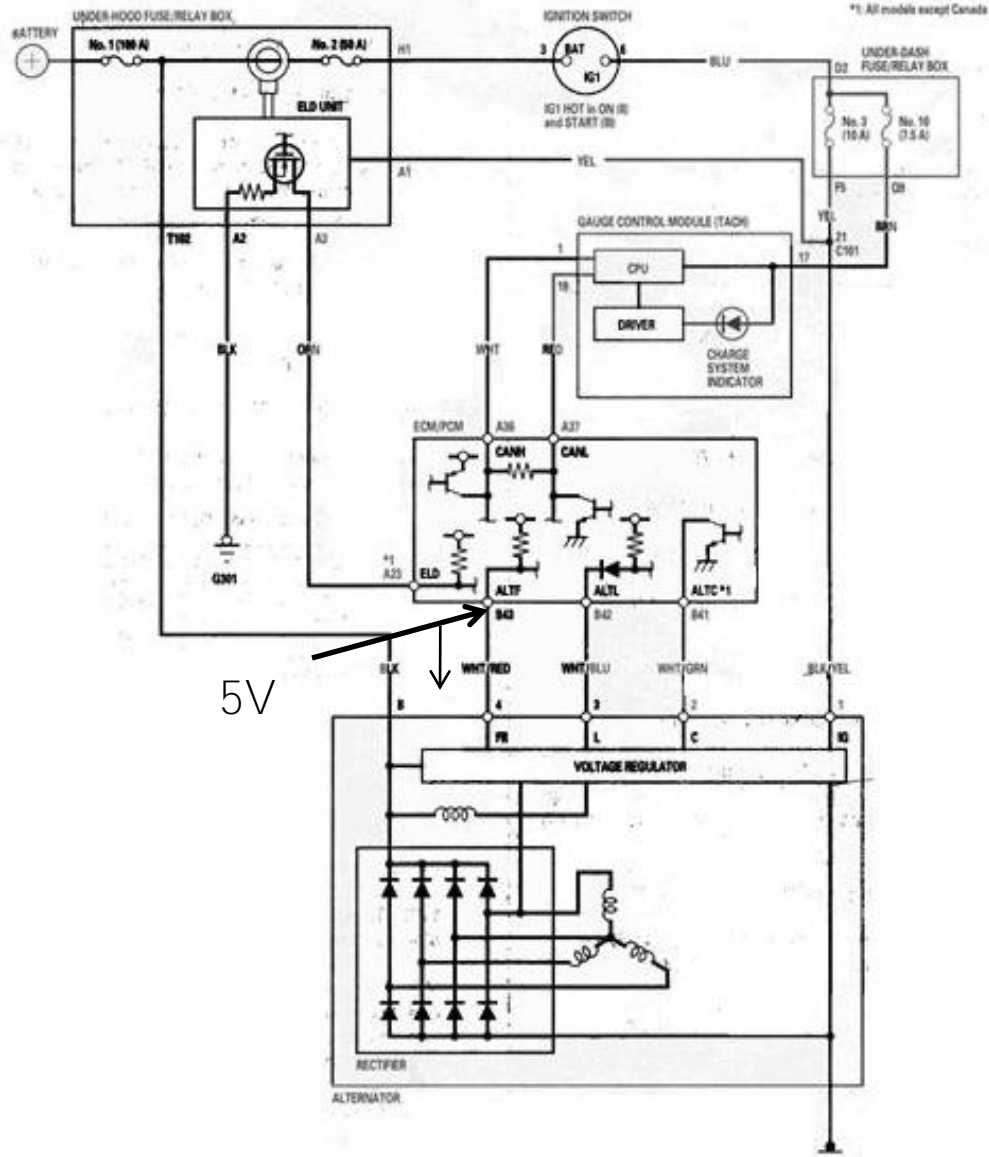


# FR-Terminal

- Is an Input to the PCM
- **PCM** sends 5V to the FR Terminal of the Alternator.
- The Voltage regulator toggles the 5V to ground based on the status of the Field Coil.



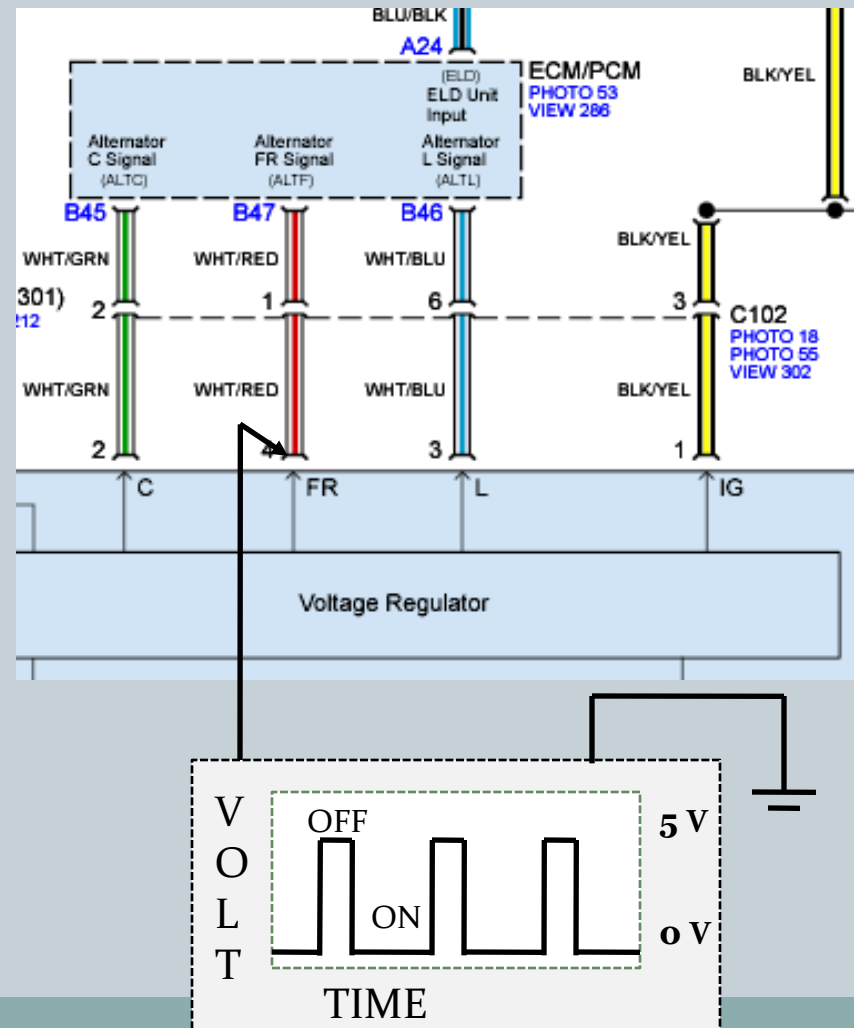
# Circuit Diagram



# FR-Terminal



- Field On- 5V is toggled to ground.
- Field Off- 5V ground is opened.



# Common Problems



- Lights dimming
- Faulty Solder-points in the ELD
- Aftermarket Alternators
- DTC P1298 (electrical load detector circuit high voltage)

# Today's Charging Systems



- Multimodal
- PCM Controlled
- Battery Temperature Sensor
- Electric Load Detector
- DTC



# Reference



- Chevrolet
- Dodge
- American Honda Motor CO., Inc.
- SIUC Students and Faculty

# Questions

