

POTENT PORTABLE POWER SOURCES



PUTTING WEEGO PORTABLE POWER SOLUTIONS TO THE TEST

BY JIM JEFFRIES

Every now and then, I come across products that seem almost too good to be true. That is the case with the line of portable power products by New Jersey-based Weego (a division of Paris Corporation). Since 2014, Weego has been busy designing and engineering innovative products that supposedly have some remarkable abilities.

Eager to find out if these products performed as advertised, I contacted Weego and asked for some samples to test. I was sent a box containing one of its new rechargeable battery packs and two premium jump-starters (along with a prepaid return shipping label ... unfortunately, these products were not mine to keep).

TOUR 10400

My testing started with the Tour 10400, one of three battery packs Weego makes. Designed to charge cell phones, tablet computers and other mobile devices, the Tour 10400 is capable of recharging phones up to six times and most tablets once. Sleek and slim, this pocket-sized power source can be used anywhere, anytime. (The Tour 2600 and 5200 are smaller, with less storage capacity and fewer ports.)

I used the Tour 10400 to charge my Android smartphone and tablet PC for one month and found that it did, indeed, meet the manufacturer's claim. How handy this little device would have been a few winters ago, when an ice storm took out my power for a week!

The Tour's charge status is displayed with four LEDs. It comes fully charged and only loses about 5 percent of its charge per month when not in use. Recharging the Weego Tour 10400 couldn't be simpler: Plug it into a USB-style wall charger, car charger or USB port on a computer. The lithium-ion battery is rechargeable 500 or more times, and, thanks to the Pass Thru charging design, you can even charge your mobile device while recharging the 10400.

◀ The Weego Tour 10400 Battery Pack comes fully charged in a metal tin.



WEEGO TOUR 10400 FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Model: BP104X
- Battery: Lithium-ion, 10400 mAh
- Two USB ports allow sharing the charge. One Detect-o-Matic port provides the fastest possible charge for your mobile device; the second port provides normal charging rates.
- Maximum output, Port 1: 5V/2.4A, 9V/2A, 12V/1.5A
- Maximum output, Port 2: 5V/2.4A
- Plenty of standby power—only loses 5 percent charge per month when not in use.
- Includes a 12-inch, fast-charge Micro USB cord
- Dimensions: 3.2x4.1x1.0 inches
- Weight: 12.8 ounces
- 18-month warranty
- MSRP: \$26.99

WEEGO 22 JUMP STARTER

If you have ever experienced a dead battery in your vehicle, you understand the hassle involved with rummaging around for tangled jumper cables in the trunk and hoping there was a sympathetic soul with a functioning automobile around. Until recently, there wasn't much chance of self-rescue if you found yourself on the side of the road with an engine that wouldn't crank.

Weego makes three models of jump-starters to get you on your way—even if there is no one else within miles.

The smallest model, the Weego 22, is advertised as capable of starting 95 percent of the car engines on American roads. Able to start gasoline engines up to 5 liters and diesels up to 2.5 liters, it is remarkably compact and lightweight.

I was anxious to see how well it would perform. After connecting the Smarty Clamps to the Weego 22 and ensuring the jump starter was turned on, I touched the bare ends of the clamps together, expecting to see sparks fly. Instead of sparks, I heard an alarm tone indicating there was a problem. The tone ceased as soon as I separated the clamps.

Next, I tried connecting the clamps to the vehicle in reverse polarity (black to positive and red to ground). Again, an alert tone sounded, and the lights on the Smarty Clamps lead indicated "Reverse Polarity." This built-in safety feature makes jump-starting a vehicle safe and foolproof. Once I connected the clamps properly, a green LED illuminated, indicating the unit was ready.

WEEGO MAKES THREE MODELS OF JUMP-STARTERS TO GET YOU ON YOUR WAY—EVEN IF THERE IS NO ONE ELSE WITHIN MILES.



› Above: The optional Laptop Charger Connector accessory allows charging most laptop computers directly from the Weego 44's 19V connection.

The Weego 22 is nothing short of amazing. With a full charge, I was able to start the 3.9-liter, V-6 gasoline engine in my Dodge Dakota not just once or twice—but six times. And it still had 80 percent charge remaining when I was done.

Recharging the Weego 22 is accomplished through a micro USB port and is compatible with wall and car chargers that have a USB port. The lithium-polymer battery only loses about 2 percent of charge per month, so even after a year of storage in your trunk or glovebox, the Weego 22 will still have plenty of power when a jump is needed. A micro USB charging cord and car charger are included.

The Weego 22 has other convenient features: a USB output port to charge any USB mobile device and a built-in, 250-lumen LED flashlight with three modes: "on," "strobe" and "SOS," with up to 14 hours runtime in "SOS" mode.

WEEGO 22 JUMP STARTER FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Model: N22
- Battery type/capacity: Lithium-polymer, 20 Wh (Watt hour), 12 volts
- Starting/peak current: 150A/300A
- Maximum charging input: 5V/3A
- Maximum USB port output: 5V or 9V/2.4A
- Recharge time: 2.5 hours at 2.1A; 1.5 hours with supplied 3A car charger
- Charging cycles: Up to 1,000
- Operating temperature: -4 to 140 degrees (F). Charge: 32 to 114 degrees; long-term storage temperature range: -4 to 86 degrees
- Dimensions: 6.25x3.175x0.75 inches
- Weight: 10.4 ounces
- MSRP: \$99.99



TESTING THE WEEGO JUMP STARTERS

I used my own bug-out vehicle, a 2002 four-wheel-drive pickup, to perform the jump-start tests. Rather than run the vehicle's battery down, I disconnected the truck's battery and connected a 12-volt, 7 amp-hour, sealed lead acid battery in its place.

Although the replacement battery met the voltage requirement, there was no way it could deliver enough current to turn the engine over. This replicated a weak or nearly dead battery very realistically and was important for testing, because the safety features built into the Weego jump-starters must sense a properly connected battery to enable the jump-start function.

› Right: Five LEDs show the charge status of the Weego 22 Jump Starter.



I USED THE TOUR 10400 TO CHARGE MY ANDROID SMARTPHONE AND TABLET PC FOR ONE MONTH AND FOUND THAT IT DID, INDEED, MEET THE MANUFACTURER'S CLAIM.

WEEGO 44 JUMP STARTER

Providing greater capacity and versatility, the Weego 44 Jump Starter is capable of starting gasoline engines up to 7 liters and diesels up to 3.5 liters.

But the improvements don't stop there. A good survival tool has to be able to do more than one thing: the Weego 44 does. In addition to the fast-charge USB port, there is a 12-volt DC output for powering accessories (such as small air compressors and fans), as well as a 19-volt connection for charging laptop computers (this requires the available Laptop Connection accessory). The Weego 44's built-in dual LED flashlight puts out 500 lumens and has "on," "strobe" and "SOS" modes, with up to 28 hours of runtime in "SOS" mode.

Jump-start testing was performed in the same manner as the Weego 22, and the results were astonishing: The engine seemed



Right: The added 12V and 19V outlets make the Weego 44 more versatile.



to crank faster than with the vehicle's own battery, even after several tests. Trying to drain the Weego 44 below 80 percent remaining power resulted in a flooded engine (shutting off the ignition immediately after starting a cold engine repeatedly is not advisable), so I can't attest to how many times I could have jump-started the engine on a single charge.

Nevertheless, the Weego 44 Jump Starter never failed to perform. This brings up a good point: If there is a condition keeping the engine from starting—other than a dead battery—jump-starting might not help. Continuous cranking will result in overheating the jump-starter, causing it to shut off in order to cool down.

Left: Because of the instructions and pictures on the device, using the Weego Jump Starters was easy.

Right: The Weego 66 Jump Starter has all the features of the 44, but with considerably more power capacity.





THINKING AND TESTING OUTSIDE THE BOX



Two-way radios for ham, FRS/GMRS and VHF marine use can be powered and charged from the WeeGo Portable Power products.



The author's Garmin GPS can eat batteries in a hurry. However, the WeeGo Tour 10400 has the equivalent of a stack of AA batteries inside its sleek housing.



Mobile transceivers requiring 12 volts DC can be run from the WeeGo 44 Jump Starter's 12V outlet. The WeeGo 44 and 66 are like electric multi-tools!

Many consumer electronics, including some handheld two-way radios, incorporate USB connections to recharge their internal batteries. I charged FRS/GMRS walkie-talkies and full-featured VHF marine portable radios with the WeeGo Tour 10400 Battery Pack; I was also able to power my handheld Garmin GPS unit—without any batteries installed—directly from it.

The same can be accomplished with the WeeGo 22, in addition to being able to jump-start your vehicle and provide illumination for safety or signaling. Either would be a valuable accessory on outdoor adventures or as part of your everyday carry.

Powering mobile transceivers, such as those used in amateur radio, requires 12 volts. The 12W/10A power output of the WeeGo 44 easily filled this role. With my Yaesu FT-857D transceiver connected to the output, I monitored radio signals for many hours, and I was able to make contacts on the HF amateur bands across the country (keeping the output power as low as needed to avoid exceeding the 10-amp current limit). I also charged the batteries in the laptop computers I frequently use in my amateur station.

I give the WeeGo 44 high marks as a versatile emergency power source and really like how well it fits into my communications kit.

Recharging these WeeGo portable power products is simple—as long as there is utility power or a functioning motor vehicle.

But what if neither of these is available? Both the Tour 10400 Battery Pack and WeeGo 22 Jump Starter charged without issue directly from my 14-watt, fold-up solar charger (5V USB output), and the WeeGo 44 Jump Starter was quite easy to connect to my 12V solar charging system.

In a grid-down scenario, these WeeGo products are still completely functional and are excellent ways to store and utilize precious electrical power.

Charging the Weego 44 requires 12 volts from either a wall or car charger (both included) and takes up to three hours to reach a full charge. Once charged, the Weego 44 can provide useable standby power for up to three years. Even so, it is recommended to top off the charge every six months to ensure full power is available when you need it.

WEEGO 44 JUMP STARTER FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Model N44
- Battery type/capacity: Lithium-polymer, 41 Wh, 12 volts
- Starting/peak current: 200A/400A
- Maximum charging input: 15V/1A
- Maximum port output: USB 5, 9, 12V/2.4A, 12V/10A, 19V/3.5A
- Recharge time: Three hours
- Charging cycles: Up to 1,000
- Operating temperature: -4 to 140 degrees (F). Charge: 32 to 114 degrees; long-term storage temperature range: -4 to 86 degrees
- Dimensions: 6.5x3.375x1.5 inches
- Weight: 24 ounces
- MSRP: \$149.99

JUMP STARTER 44—ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND SPECS

Weego makes several accessories for the Jump Starter 44 that will allow you to take full advantage of its capabilities:

- 12-volt DC connection adapters for SAE and round accessory (cigarette plug) connections
- Laptop charging connectors (19 volt DC)
- Three-in-one USB charging cords
- Automotive and powersports tethers that connect to hard-to-reach batteries in vehicles, boats, ATV, personal watercraft and more—great for jump-starting when you can't easily get to the battery

JUMP STARTER 22 AND 44—ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND SPECS

- Designed and engineered in the U.S.A.
- IP65 rating ensures resistance to water, dust and dirt (covers are closed; not submersible).
- Detect-o-Matic USB charging port automatically provides the fastest charge rate for phones, tablets and other mobile devices.

EVERY ONE OF THE WEEGO PRODUCTS TESTED LIVED UP TO THE MANUFACTURER'S CLAIMS, WAS EASY TO USE AND FAR EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS.

› The battery terminal clamps provided by Weego are sturdy and tenacious—no need to worry about them failing when you need them the most.



SOURCE

Weego Portable Power
www.MyWeego.com

- Revolutionary, patented Smarty-Clamps ensure foolproof operation, with visual and audible alerts to ensure safe, worry-free jump starts.
- Included hook and lanyard turn the Jump Starter into a work or camp light.
- Packaged inside a functional, lunchbox-style tin, along with a high-visibility, zippered, water-resistant pouch
- 18-month warranty

WEEGO 66 JUMP STARTER

Weego also makes an even more-powerful jump starter—the Weego 66 (unfortunately, this model was not available for review). Engineered to start gasoline engines up to 10 liters and diesels to 5 liters, it can deliver 300A starting/600A peak current. Only slightly larger and an ounce or so heavier, it has considerably more capacity and is compatible with all the accessories made for the Weego 44. It has USB, 12V and 19V ports that meet the same specifications as the 44, along with a built-in 600-lumen, dual LED flashlight with up to 28 hours of runtime in “SOS” mode.

- Model N66
- MSRP: \$199.99

All the Weego products tested came packaged in metal tins. The Tour Battery Pack was nestled inside a box with a flip-open top, and the Jump Starters were packed inside lunchbox-style containers. Although it's conceivable that the metal tins could provide some protection from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), they would definitely make handy containers for gathering food or water in a survival scenario.

Product support is available on the Weego website. If the answer to your question isn't found in the product FAQ or troubleshooting sections, e-mail support is available (I had a technical question during the tests, and the support team promptly answered my e-mail). Weego product support is good to go.

Every one of the Weego products tested lived up to the manufacturer's claims, was easy to use and far exceeded my expectations. **ASG**



› Optional accessories are available to allow you to take full advantage of the Weego 44's capabilities.

