

Xantrex's Inverter/Charger

The Xantrex line of Freedom inverters/chargers celebrated its 25th anniversary a few years ago as an enduring RV power solutions product.

While admittedly straightforward in nature, the efficiently designed power solution has changed little over the years. Mitul Chandrani, director of marketing for Xantrex, said the company launched its original Freedom model in 1992, with an enhanced version dubbed Freedom 458 in 1997.

As an DC/AC inverter, battery charger and a transfer relay, the product ultimately made a huge impact, Chandrani said. It was designed specifically for Type A motorhome users.

Most motorhomes built in the U.S. between 1998 and 2004 featured a Freedom 458. He said the battery/charger combination was new technology in the 1990s. The Xantrex team capitalized on the new opportunity the product presented.

"The engineers responsible for its design, their blood and sweat went into the development of this product," Chandrani said. "This was the first of its kind on the RV market. It was better engineered and designed to last."

The nearly 30-year-old product line remains a staple of the motorhome industry today.



Intellitec's Battery Disconnect

Intellitec Products' founder Bill Slavic designed an RV battery disconnect relay nearly 35 years ago. It remains a top player in the RV industry. Developed and launched in 1984 as a response to then inefficiencies of RV battery systems, the BD Relay quickly became a staple.

"We sold our 1 millionth unit back in 2001, and we're still building them like hot cakes today," Intellitec Products President Ned Schiff said.

The BD Relay's signature magnetic latch pulls power from the battery only as it opens and closes, preventing overheating or energy waste common in other systems. Schiff said the magnetic latching relay was key to the product's early success.

"It was really a brilliant invention," Schiff said. "It made it a green product, but also, more importantly, it didn't get hot and wasn't wasting energy. It wasn't draining batteries to stay closed."

Intellitec still builds the BD Relay at its manufacturing headquarters in DeLand, Florida, but recently expanded the line with more technologically advanced "Made in the U.S.A." iterations.

