

# LandStar

## LS0512

### — Solar Charge Controller



Nominal system voltage	12VDC
Maximum PV input voltage	35V
Nominal charge / discharge current	5A

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# 1 Important Safety Information

## Save These Instructions

This manual contains important safety, installation and operating instructions.

The following symbols are used throughout this manual to indicate potentially dangerous conditions or mark important safety instructions, please take care when meeting these symbols.



**WARNING:** Indicates a potentially dangerous condition. Use extreme caution when performing this task.



**CAUTION:** Indicates a critical procedure for safe and proper operation of the controller.



**NOTE:** Indicates a procedure or function that is important for the safe and proper operation of the controller.

## **General Safety Information**

- Read all of the instructions and cautions in the manual before beginning installation.
- There are no user serviceable parts inside the controller. Do not disassemble or attempt to repair it.
- Install external fuses/breakers as required.
- Disconnect the solar module and fuse/breakers near to battery before installing or adjusting the controller.
- Do not allow water to enter the controller.
- Confirm that power connections are tightened to avoid excessive heating from loose connection.

## **2 General Information**

### **2.1 Product Overview**

Thank you for selecting LandStar series solar charge controller that adopts the most advanced digital technique and operates fully automatically. The Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) battery charging can greatly increase the lifetime of battery. It has various unique functions and quite easy to use, such as:

- High efficient Series PWM charging, increase the battery lifetime and improve the solar system performance.
- Use MOSFET as electronic switch, without any mechanical switch
- LED indicators indicate battery voltage state.
- Adopt temperature compensation, correct the charging and discharging parameters automatically and improve the battery lifetime.
- Electronic protection: over charging, over discharging, overload, and short circuit.
- Reverse protection for battery.

The controller is for off-grid solar system, especially in solar light system, and protects the battery from being over charged by the solar module and over discharged by the loads. The charging process has been optimized for long battery life and improved system performance. The comprehensive self-diagnostics and electronic protection functions can prevent damage from installation mistakes or system faults.

Though the controller is easy to operate and use, please take your time to read this manual and become familiar with it. This will help you make full use of all the functions and improve your solar PV system.

## 2.2 Product Features

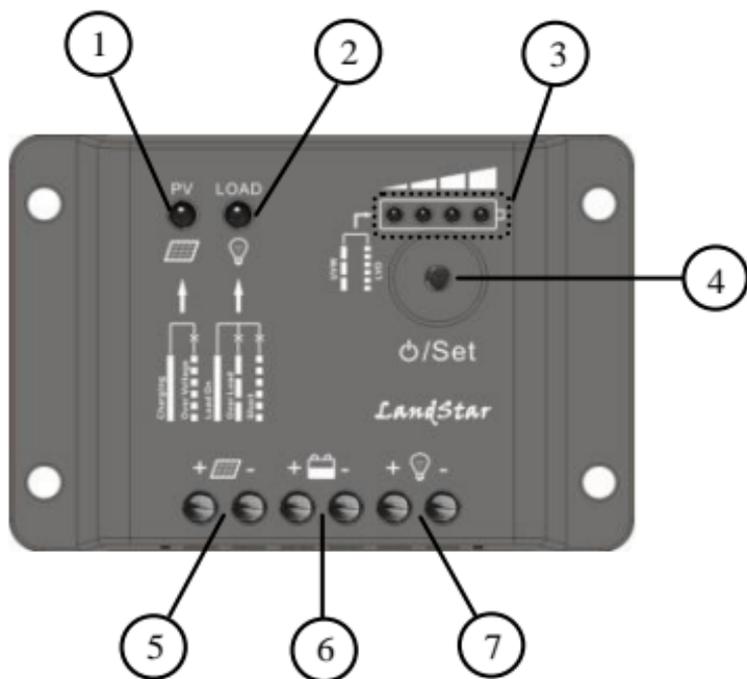


Figure 2-1 LandStar characteristics

1 –Charging status LED indicator

An LED indicator that shows charging status and also indicates when battery voltage is higher than over voltage disconnect voltage.

2 –Load status LED indicator

An LED indicator that shows load status

3 –Battery voltage LED indicators

Four LED indicators indicating battery voltages .

#### 4 –Setting button

Control the load ON/OFF and select the battery type

#### 5 –Solar Module Terminals

Connect solar modules.

#### 6 –Battery Terminals

Connect batteries.

#### 7 –Load Terminals

Connect loads.

# 3 Installation Instructions

## 3.1 Mounting

- Read through the entire installation section first before beginning installation.
- Be very careful when working with batteries. Wear eye protection. Have fresh water available to wash and clean any contact with battery acid.
- Use insulated tools and avoid placing metal objects near the batteries.
- Explosive battery gasses may be present during charging. Be certain there is sufficient ventilation to release the gasses.
- Avoid direct sunlight and do not install in locations where water can enter the controller.
- Loose power connections and/or corroded wires may result in resistive connections that melt wire insulation, burn surrounding materials, or even cause fire. Ensure tight connections and use cable clamps to secure cables and prevent them from swaying in mobile applications.
- Use with Gel, Sealed or Flooded batteries only.
- Battery connection may be wired to one battery or a bank of batteries. The following instructions refer to a singular battery, but it is implied that the battery connection can be made to either one battery or a group of batteries in a battery bank.
- Select the system cables according to  $3A/mm^2$  current density.



**NOTE:** When mounting the controller, ensure free air through the controller heat sink fins. There should be at least 6 inches (150 mm) of clearance above and below the controller to allow for cooling. If mounted in an enclosure, ventilation is highly recommended.



**WARNING:** Risk of explosion! Never install the controller in a sealed enclosure with flooded batteries! Do not install in a confined area where battery gassed can accumulate.

### **Step 1: Choose Mounting Location**

Locate the controller on a vertical surface protected from direct sun, high temperature, and water. And make sure good ventilation.

### **Step 2: Check for clearance**

Place the controller in the location where it will be mounted. Verify that there is sufficient room to run wires and that there is sufficient room above and below the controller for air flow.

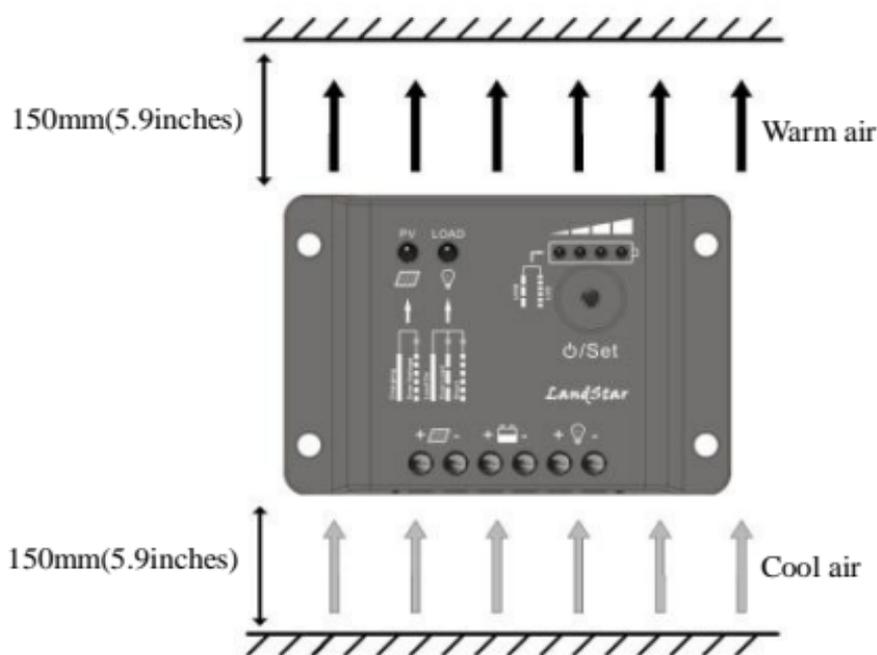


Figure 3-1 Mounting and cooling

### Step 3: Mark Holes

Use a pencil or pen to mark the four (4) mounting hole locations on the mounting surface.

### Step 4: Drill Holes

Remove the controller and drill 4 holes in the marked locations.

### Step 5: Secure Controller

Place the controller on the surface and align the mounting holes with the drilled holes in step 4.

Secure the controller in place using the mounting screws.

## 3.2 Wiring



**NOTE:** A recommended connection order has been provided for maximum safety during installation.



**NOTE:** The controller is a common positive ground controller.



**CAUTION:** Don't connect the loads with surge power exceeding the ratings of the controller.



**CAUTION:** For mobile applications, be sure to secure all wiring. Unsecured cables create loose and resistive connections which may lead to excessive heating and/or fire.



**WARNING:** Risk of explosion or fire! Never short circuit battery positive (+) and negative (-) or cables.



**WARNING:** Risk of electric shock! Exercise caution when handling solar wiring. The solar module(s) high voltage output can cause severe shock or injury. Be careful operation when installing solar wiring.

Before battery is connected, make sure that battery voltage is greater than 6V so as to start up the controller.

The load should be DC applicant with the same rated voltage as battery's. Controller offers power to loads through the battery voltage.

It is recommended that no less than 2 times rated current fuse is connected with battery and load.

## Step 1: Wiring

The recommended connection order has been provided as Figure 3-2 indicated. Be sure the negative and positive polarity connection is correct and all terminals are tightened.

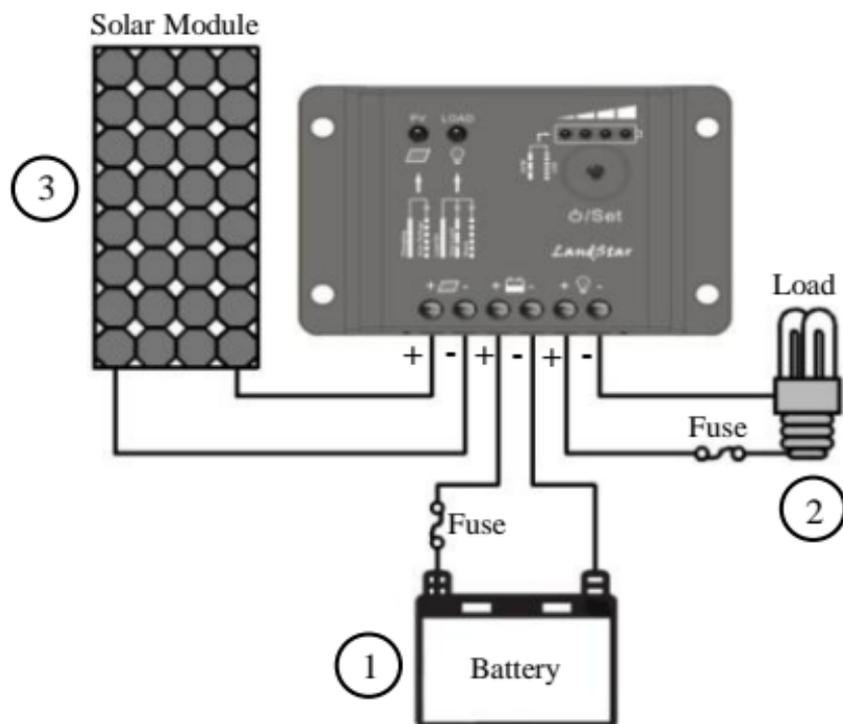


Figure 3-2 System wiring review

## Step 2: Confirm power on

When battery power is applied and the controller starts up, the battery LED indicators will be on. If the controller doesn't start up, or the battery LED error exists, please refer to section 5 for troubleshooting.

# 4 Operation

## 4.1 Battery Charging Information

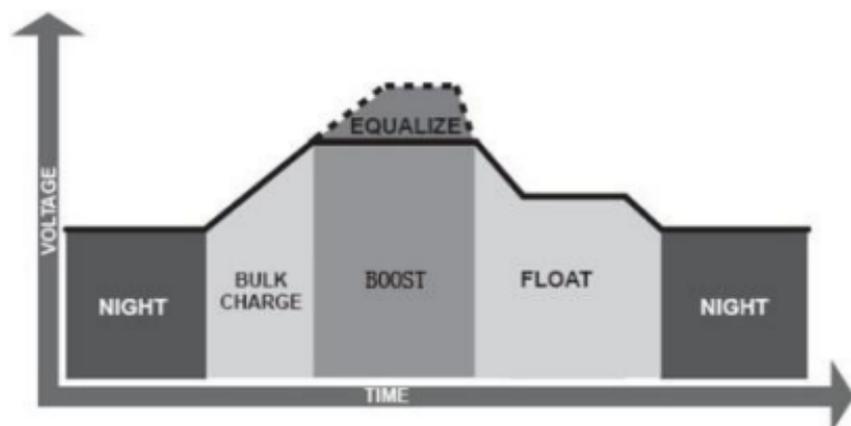


Figure 4-1 PWM Charging mode

### **Bulk Charge**

In this stage, the battery voltage has not yet reached boost voltage and 100% of available solar power is used to charge the battery.

### **Boost Charge**

When the battery has recharged to the Boost voltage setpoint, constant-current regulation is used to prevent heating and excessive battery gassing. The Boost stage remains 120 minutes and then goes to Float Charge.

## Float Charge

After the battery is fully charged in Boost voltage stage, the controller reduces the battery voltage to Float voltage set point. When the battery is fully recharged, there will be no more chemical reactions and all the charge current transmits into heat and gas at this time. Then the controller reduces the voltage to the floating stage, charging with a smaller voltage and current. It will reduce the temperature of battery and prevent the gassing, also charging the battery slightly at the same time. The purpose of Float stage is to offset the power consumption caused by self consumption and small loads in the whole system, while maintaining full battery storage capacity.

In Float stage, loads can continue to draw power from the battery. In the event that the system load(s) exceed the solar charge current, the controller will no longer be able to maintain the battery at the Float setpoint. Should the battery voltage remains below the boost reconnect charging voltage, the controller will exit Float stage and return to Bulk charge.

## Equalize Charge



**WARNING: Risk of explosion!**

**Equalizing flooded battery can produce explosive gases, so well ventilation of battery box is necessary.**

**NOTE: Equipment damage!**



Equalization may increase battery voltage to the level damaging to sensitive DC loads. Ensure that all load allowable input voltages are greater than the equalizing charging set point voltage.

**NOTE: Equipment damage!**



Over-charging and excessive gas precipitation may damage the battery plates and activate material shedding on them. Too high an equalizing charge or for too long may cause damage. Please carefully review the specific requirements of the battery used in the system.

Certain types of batteries benefit from periodic equalizing charge, which can stir the electrolyte, balance battery voltage and complete chemical reaction. Equalizing charge increases the battery voltage, higher than the standard complement voltage, which gasifies the battery electrolyte.

If the battery is over discharged, the solar controller will automatically turn to equalize charging stage, and the equalize stage remains 120mins. Equalize charge and boost charge are not carried out constantly in a full charge process to avoid too much gas precipitation or overheating of battery.

## 4.2 LED Indicators

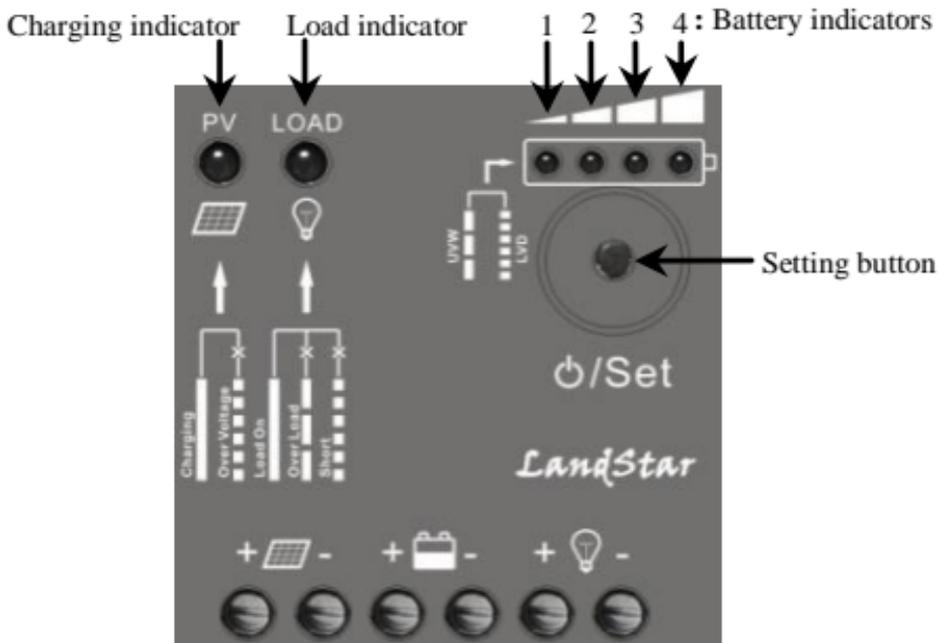


Figure 4-2 LED indicators

- **Charging status indicator**

ON whenever sunlight is available for battery charging,

FAST FLASHING when battery over voltage.

Please refer to section 5 for troubleshooting.

Charging status LED indicator

Table 4-1

Indicator	Charging Status
On Solid	Charging
Fast Flashing	Battery over voltage

### ●Battery status indicator

LED1 SLOWLY FLASHING when battery under voltage

LED1 FAST FLASHING when battery over discharged

Please see the instruction of battery voltage indicating in the table 4-2.

Please refer to section 5 for troubleshooting.

Battery LED indicator

Table 4-2

LED1	LED 2	LED 3	LED 4	Battery Status
SLOWLY FLASHING	×	×	×	Under voltage
FAST FLASHING	×	×	×	Over discharged
Battery LED indicator status during voltage is up				
○	○	×	×	>12.8V
○	○	○	×	>13.4V
○	○	○	○	>14.1V
Battery LED indicator status during voltage is down				
○	○	○	×	<13.4V
○	○	×	×	<12.8V

○	×	×	×	<12.4V
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“○”LED indicator on

“×”LED indicator off

● **Load status indicator:**

Load indicator ON when load output is in normal. When the load amp is 1.25times of rated current for 60 seconds, or the load amp is 1.5 times of rated current for 5 seconds (overload), Load indicator SLOWLY FLASHING. When the load is short circuit, Load indicator will FAST FLASHING. Please refer to section 5 for trouble shooting.

Load status LED indicator

Table 4-3

Indicator	Load status
On solid	ON
OFF	OFF
SLOWLY FLASHING	Overload
FAST FLASHING	Short Circuit

## 4.3 Setting Operation

### • Load Work Mode Setting

When the controller is powered on, press the setting button to control the load output. Press the button once, the ON/OFF status will be changed corresponding.

### • Battery Type Setting

Press the setting button for more than 5 seconds, battery indicator LED1, LED2, LED3 will be flashing correspondingly. Then press the setting button to choose Sealed, Gel, and Flooded battery type. The setting is finished till the digital tube stop flashing.

Battery type selection

Table4-4

1	2	3	Battery type
○	×	×	Sealed lead acid battery
○	○	×	Gel battery
○	○	○	Flooded battery

“○”LED indicator on

“×”LED indicator off

# 5 Protection, Troubleshooting and Maintenance

## 5.1 Protection

### **Load Overload**

If the load current exceeds the maximum load current rating, the controller will disconnect the load. Overloading must be cleared up through reapply power or pressing the setting button.

### **Load Short Circuit**

Fully protected against load wiring short-circuit. After one automatic load reconnect attempt, the fault must be cleared by reapply power or pressing the setting button.

### **Battery Reverse Polarity**

Fully protection against battery reverse polarity, no damage to the controller will result. Correct the miswire to resume normal operation.

### **Damaged Local Temperature Sensor**

If the temperature sensor short-circuited or damaged, the controller will be charging or discharging at the default temperature 25 °C to prevent the battery damaged from overcharging or over discharged.

### **High Voltage Transients**

PV is protected against high voltage transients. In lightning prone areas, additional external suppression is recommended.

## 5.2 Troubleshooting

Trouble Shooting

Table 5-1

<b>Faults</b>	<b>Possible reasons</b>	<b>Troubleshooting</b>
Charging LED indicator off during daytime when sunshine falls on PV modules properly.	PV array disconnection	Check that PV and battery wire connections are correct and tight.
charging LED indicator fast flashing	Battery voltage higher than over voltage disconnect voltage(OVD)	Check if battery voltage over high. Disconnect the solar module
Battery LED1 indicator SLOWLY FLASHING	Battery under voltage	When load output is normal, LED status will return to ON automatically when fully charged.
Battery LED1 indicator FAST FLASHING.	Battery over discharged	When the controller cut off the output automatically, LED status will return to ON automatically when fully charged.

Load indicator LED SLOWLY FLASHING	Over load	Please reduce the load and press the button once, the controller will resume to work after 3s
Load indicator LED FAST FLASHING	Short circuit	when the first short-circuit occurs, the controller will automatically resume to work after 10s; when a second short-circuit occurs, press the button, the controller will resume to work after 3s



**Notes:** No LED indicator.

Measure battery voltage with multimeter.

Min.6V can start up the controller.



**Notes:** No charging status LED indicator with normal connection. Measure the input voltage of solar module, the input voltage must be higher than battery voltage!

## 5.3 Maintenance

The following inspections and maintenance tasks are recommended at least two times per year for best controller performance.

- Check that the controller is securely mounted in a clean and dry environment.
- Check that the air flow and ventilation around the controller is not blocked. Clear all dirt or fragments on the heat sink.
- Check all the naked wires to make sure insulation is not damaged for serious solarization, frictional wear, dryness, insects or rats etc. Maintain or replace the wires if necessary.
- Tighten all the terminals. Inspect for loose, broken, or burnt wire connections.
- Check and confirm that LED digital tube is consistent with required. Pay attention to any troubleshooting or error indication .Take necessary corrective action.
- Confirm that all the system components are ground connected tightly and correctly.

- Confirm that all the terminals have no corrosion, insulation damaged, high temperature or burnt/discolored sign, tighten terminal screws to the suggested torque.
- Inspect for dirt, insects and corrosion, and clear up.
- Check and confirm that lightning arrester is in good condition.  
Replace a new one in time to avoid damaging of the controller and even other equipments.



**Notes: Dangerous with electric shock!**

**Make sure that all power source of controller is cut off when operate above processes, and then make inspection or other operations !**

## **6 Warranty**

The LandStar charge controller is warranted to be free from defects for a period of TWO (2) years from the date of shipment to the original end user. We will, at its option, repair or replace any such defective products.

## • **Claim procedure:**

Before requesting warranty service, check the Operation Manual to be certain that there is a problem with the controller. Return the defective product to us with shipping charges prepaid if problem cannot be solved. Provide proof of date and place of purchase. To obtain rapid service under this warranty, the returned products must include the model, serial number and detailed reason for the failure, the module type and size, type of batteries and system loads. This information is critical to a rapid disposition of your warranty claim.

## • **This warranty does not apply under the following conditions:**

1. Damage by accident, negligence, abuse or improper use.
2. PV or load current exceeding the ratings of product.
3. Unauthorized product modification or attempted repair
4. Damaged occurring during shipment.
5. Damage results from acts of nature such as lightning, weather extremes.
6. Irreclaimable mechanical damage.

## 7 Technical specifications

Electrical Parameters

Table 7-1

Description	Parameter
Nominal System Voltage	12V
Max. batt. Volt. to the controller	16V
Rated Battery Current	5A
Charge Circuit Voltage Drop	$\leq 0.26V$
Discharge Circuit Voltage Drop	$\leq 0.15V$
Self-consumption	$\leq 6mA$

Temperature Compensation Coefficient

Table7-2

Description	Parameter
Temperature Compensation Coefficient(TEMPCO)*	-30mV/°C/12V (25°C ref)

\* Compensation of equalize, boost, float and low voltage disconnect voltage

Charging Parameters			
Battery charging setting	Gel	Sealed	Flooded
Over Voltage Disconnect Voltage	16V	16V	16V
Charging Limit Voltage	15.5V	15.5V	15.5V
Over Voltage Reconnect Voltage	15V	15V	15V
Equalize Charging Voltage	-----	14.6V	14.8V
Boost Charging Voltage	14.2V	14.4V	14.6V
Float Charging Voltage	13.8V	13.8V	13.8V
Boost Reconnect Charging Voltage	13.2V	13.2V	13.2V
Low Voltage Reconnect Voltage	12.6V	12.6V	12.6V
Under Voltage Warning Reconnect Voltage	12.2V	12.2V	12.2V

Under Voltage Warning Voltage	12V	12V	12V
Low Voltage Disconnect Voltage	11.1V	11.1V	11.1V
Discharging Limit Voltage	10.8V	10.8V	10.8V
Equalize Duration	-----	2 hours	2 hours
Boost Duration	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours

Environmental parameters

Table 7-4

Environmental parameters	Parameter
Working temperature	-35°C to +55°C
Storage temperature	-35°C to +80°C
Humidity	10%-90% NC
Enclosure	IP30

Mechanical Parameters

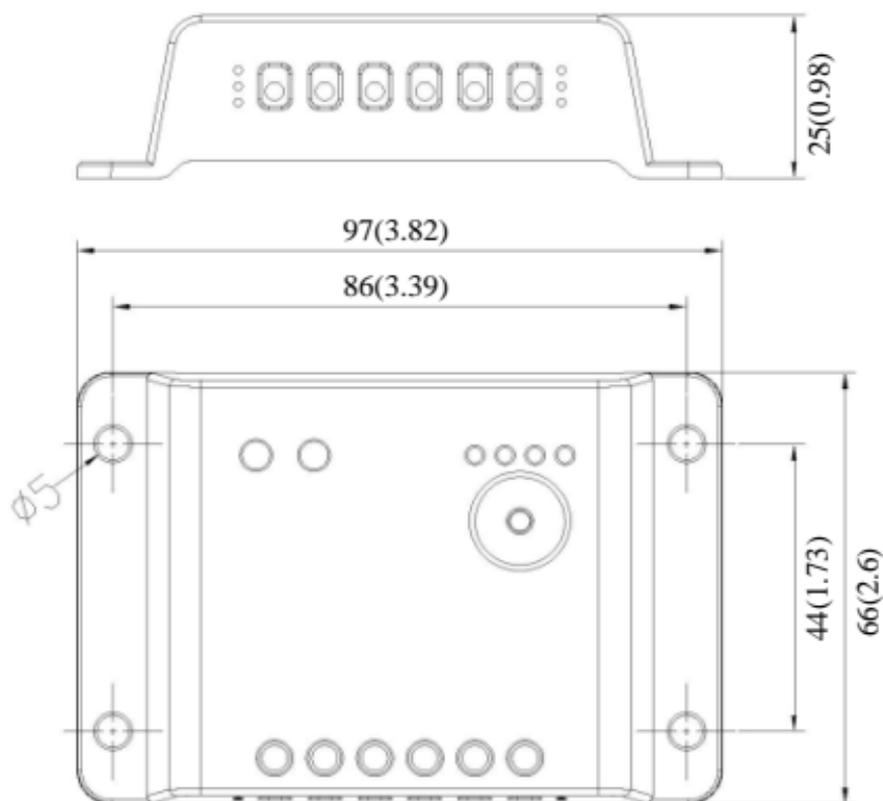
Table 7-5

Mechanical Parameter	Parameter
Overall dimension	97(3.82)x66(2.6)x25(0.98) mm/inches
Mounting dimension	86(3.39) x 44(1.73) mm/inches
Mounting hole size	Φ5
Terminal	2.5mm <sup>2</sup>
Net weight	0.05kg

**Final interpretation right of the manual belongs to our company.**

**Any changes without prior notice!**

mm(inches)



Dimensions

Version number: V6.0