

ZAP Xebra Vehicle Electrical Repair and Troubleshooting Manual (12V Key)

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Intended Readers

The purpose of this manual is to provide a mechanic, technician or savvy electric car buff with the tools to troubleshoot and repair the vehicle. Please be sure you are familiar with the Owner's Manual before using this guide. This troubleshooting Guide assumes a good knowledge of the Owner's Manual, the vehicle itself and basic mechanical and electrical skills. Check with ZAP if you are unsure who to have do the work. ZAP is not responsible for damage to your vehicle or personal injury for work done by non-qualified personnel.

Version

This document describes the original wiring with the 12V key ignition system. Do not use this manual for the 72V key ignition system.

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Electrical Introduction

This document describes the electrical systems of the ZAP Xebra vehicles. The sedan is referred to as "SD" and the pickup as "PK".

- The schematics are in appendix A.
- Wires are given identifying labels.
- Low voltage wires prefix the number with "S" (Ex. S1).
- High voltage wires prefix the number with "T" (Ex. T1).
- Low voltage power wires start with "12V" (Ex. 12VF3).
- High voltage power wires start with "72V" (Ex 72VC).
- The low voltage common is referred to as -12V. This is also connected to the vehicle chassis.
- The high voltage common is referred to as -72V.
- Components are given identifying labels.
 - "A" indicates a module (Ex. A1 for DC/DC converter).
- "JD" indicates a lower current relay (Ex. JD1).
- "J" indicates a high current contactor (Ex. J1).
- "L" indicates a light bulb (Ex. L1).
- "K" indicates a switch or button (Ex. K24).
- There is one complicated multifunction switch mounted on the steering column that controls the head lights, blinkers, emergency flashers and windshield wipers. This is broken into K1-1, K1-2 and K1-3 on the schematics.
- The electrical system is divided into:
 - The 12V low voltage light and accessory system, running off the accessory battery.
 - The 72V high voltage drive system, operating off the traction battery pack.
 - The 12V system must be operational before the 72V system can be activated.

Whenever you are troubleshooting an electrical system, it is necessary to know where the "Common" or "Ground" is located. In these vehicles the 12V system is isolated from the 72V system. The 12V common is also tied to the metal car frame. The 72V system is completely isolated (floating).

12V Common

- The 12V common is referred to as -12V in the schematics.
- The best place to locate the 12V common inside the cab is on the cigarette lighter. You should get a cigarette lighter plug from an automotive store and solder a black wire to the -12V side (the outside wall of the connector).
- When in the front or rear compartments of the vehicle, use any common (black wire) on a light bulb connector.
- The metal frame is usually not a good place to pick up common.
- When using a voltmeter, set to an appropriate scale for 12V (usually the 20V range) and connect the black voltmeter common to 12V common.
- Use your red voltmeter wire to probe the 12V electrical system.

72V Common

- The 72V common is referred to as -72V in the schematics.
- In the SD you can remove the center traction battery cover and connect to the negative terminal of the battery closest to the dash.
- In either the SD or the PK you can remove the center dashboard switch plate (two screws) and connect to the black wire of the heater switch.
- When in the rear of the vehicle, use the B- post on the motor controller A21.
- When using a voltmeter, set to an appropriate scale for 72V (usually the 200V range).
- Use your red voltmeter wire to probe the 72V electrical system.

Common Electrical Problems

The most common problems include loose wire connections and fuse and connector problems. Since the Xebra is a simple vehicle, the solution is often simple. It is important to be just like a doctor and be a good detective.

WARNING and Safety !

- **Both electrical systems are capable of very high currents (means blinding light, sparks, fire and welding are possible).**
- **The 72V system is also capable of giving you a serious voltage shock.**
- **When working on the vehicle, all tools and handles should be wrapped in electrical tape or rubber coated to avoid shorting terminals; that is, never touch the positive to a negative of any part of the system or any battery.**
- **Positive and negative locations may not be immediately obvious, especially on the motor controller and the printed circuit card.**
- **Take all standard precautions for electrical systems including removing rings and watches, wear safety glasses and gloves and proceed cautiously using common sense.**
- **Unless necessary for troubleshooting, make sure the 12V cutoff switch and the 72V cutoff switch are off. They must always be off whenever you are changing components (such as the motor controller), fuses or wiring.**

Check for Tight Wiring Connections

- wires on fuse and diode blocks
- wires to and between batteries
- wires to main traction battery fusible link F9
- wires to contactors
- wires to motor controller
- wires to drive (traction) motor
- Make sure the small wires on the motor controller (A21) are tight; crimp as necessary

Fuse problems, solutions and tips

- The PK uses standard blade fuses and do not have the following problems.
- The SDs originally used wire wound fuses. These fuses can discolor (oxidize) over time (which causes the resistance to increase). Refer to the waterproofing and reliability guide for information on replacing these fuses.
- **If you find such fuses they must be removed and changed to standard automotive blade fuses.**

- Use Zap supplied replacement fuse sockets.
- In an emergency you may solder a standard blade fuse to the original fuse holder (remove all the old wire).
- Or purchase and wire blade fuse holders with wire pigtails (available at any automotive store).
- There are six of these "bad" wire fuses, F1-F4 are under the front passenger side dashboard and F5-F6 are in the rear motor compartment above the contactors. Removing the glove box makes working on the fuse block much easier.

Connector problems, solutions and tips

- The connectors sometimes become loose or disconnected.
- Simply reconnect making sure the connector latching mechanism seats properly.
- Be sure no pins or lugs have become unseated. If so, press them back into the connector until they snap or catch in place.
- If you suspect a bad connection between the wire and the pin, remove pin, uncrimp to remove wire, cut out bad section, strip, recrimp and solder connection.

Theory of Electrical Operation

This section gives a step by step description of how the ZAP Xebra vehicle's electrical systems operate:

1. Enable the 72V electrical system by pulling out (turning on) the red "Main Disconnect" switch (K21) in front of the driver's seat.
2. Turn on the 12V electrical system by turning on the power (cutoff) switch (K25) on the dashboard.
3. Turn the key ignition switch (K26) to position 1 (1st click).
4. This energizes relay JD8 which turns the 12V electrical system on through fuse F2.
5. The ignition switch also energizes relay JD4 which activates contactor J4 which connects 72VC through fuse F6 to 72VF6 and the DC/DC converter.
6. The DC/DC converter outputs about 14.0 VDC which takes over the operation of the 12V electrical system and charges the 12V battery through fuse F1, relay JD8, ignition switch K26, cutoff switch K25 and battery protection fuse F7.
7. Note, if the 12V battery is badly discharged, relay JD4 will not turn on, which in turn prevents starting the DC/DC converter.
8. On cars so equipped, press the green emergency start button K20. This forces +72V to start the DC/DC converter.
9. Otherwise, most vehicles have been modified so you can charge the 12V battery through one of the cigarette lighters.
10. On very early models you must connect your battery charger directly to the 12V battery.
11. You may use any standard 12V car battery charger but select a low current range (15A or lower).
12. The dash voltmeter should indicate the voltage of the 72 volt system.
13. Now all the lights and accessories will operate except the reverse lights and beeper which require the traction drive system to be enabled.
14. Voltage 72VC is also connected from contactor J4 onto battery charger lockout relay JDac.
15. As long as the battery charger is unplugged, JDac is not energized so 72VC is passed to relay JD5 over wire T1.

16. If the battery charger is plugged in, the charger disable relay energizes, removing the voltage to JD5.
17. Turning the key to position 2 (2nd click) energizes relay JD5.
18. The 72V is now passed from JD5 over T2 through fuse F5 through T4 to the direction switch K23. As long as this switch is in "N" (Neutral), the 72V goes no further.
19. The vehicle is now armed for motion.
20. To drive forward, place the directional switch K23 in position "F".
21. This energizes the forward contactor J3 over T6.
22. Power is then routed to relay JD7 through diode D5 over T8.
23. When either or both the foot and emergency brakes are activated, relay JD7 is energized, removing coil power to the main contactor J1.
24. When both the foot and emergency brakes are released, relay JD7 is de-energized which puts power on the main contactor coil J1 over T9.
25. Later models have D4 removed so that JD7 is only activated by the emergency brake. ZAP recommends you remove diode D4 to prevent the constant activation of main contactor J1 every time the driver steps on the foot brake.
26. T9 also places power on the speed controller. The controller green LED should light.
27. Pressing the accelerator pedal causes the 5K pot (A25) to vary the control signal to the controller which causes the speed of the motor to vary.
28. Placing the direction switch in reverse (R) arms the vehicle for reverse.
29. Press the "Reverse Button" to latch relay JD2 in the energized position.
30. This energizes the reverse contactor J2 and also relay JD1 over T7.
31. Relay JD1 energizes the backup lights and beeper.
32. Power is then routed to relay JD7 through diode D6 over T8.
33. The main contactor J1 and controller A21 are activated as described above.
34. Pressing the accelerator pedal causes the 5K pot to vary the control signal to the controller which causes the speed of the motor to vary in the reverse direction.
35. Placing the direction switch in neutral or forward causes relay JD2 to turn off, taking the vehicle out of reverse.

Electrical Troubleshooting by Vehicle Operation

Low Voltage 12V System

The following is the sequence of a properly operating system with probable cause if there is a failure:

1. Turn red 12V power rocker switch on ("1" is depressed). This enables power from the 12V battery. On some vehicles the radio will come on.
2. Turn key on one click to position 1. This activates the 12V system which means all lights and accessories should now operate. If nothing is operational, check the following:
 - 12V is present on center contact of cigarette lighter. Should be in range of 11.5-13.5V. If there is no voltage, then 30A glass fuse F7 is blown.
3. Battery voltage. If below 11.5V, charge with a battery charger. You can charge back through the cigarette lighter as long as above fuse is not blown. Relay JD8 which, enables the 12V system, will not activate if the battery voltage is too low.
4. Function of Ignition switch.
5. Fuse F2.

If there are problems proceed as follows:

1. Test Dome (rear view mirror) light. Possible problems to check:
 - Dome light L14 or switch.
2. Center headlight should be on. Possible problems to check:
 - Fuse F4 on sedan or labeled fuse on PCB in PK.
3. Headlamp L1.
4. Center headlamp connector under front hood.
5. Turn on center high beam. The high beam light in the speedometer meter should also come on. Possible problems to check:
 - Headlamp L1.
 - High/Low switch (K2) on dash.
 - High beam light in speedometer.
 - Center headlamp connector under front hood.
6. Turn headlight switch on steering column on one click. The speedometer and voltmeter back lights, taillights, license plate light and headlight running lights should come on. Possible problems to check:
 - Fuse F3 on sedan.
 - Appropriate labeled fuses on SD PCB.
7. Bulbs.
8. Associated connectors including multifunction switch connectors.
9. Multifunction switch K1-3.
10. Turn headlight switch on two clicks. Headlight low beam should come on.
11. Pull head light switch out to middle position. Nothing happens on sedan. High beam comes on for PK.
12. Push down red hazard light switch and make sure all four (two front and two back) blinkers come on. Controlled by switch K1-2.
 - Flasher module A6.
13. Make sure right blinkers work. Check blinker light in speedometer.
14. Make sure left blinkers work. Check blinker light in speedometer.
15. Test horn. Possible problems to check:
 - Wire connections to horn.
 - Horn inside front deck lid.
 - Contactor that connects horn button to wiring behind steering wheel.
 - Horn button on steering wheel.
 - Relay JD6.
 - Associated connectors.
16. Test windshield wiper. Possible problems to check:
 - Fuse F3 on sedan.
 - Appropriate labeled fuse on SD PCB.
 - Wiper motor M1.
 - Multifunction switch K1-1.
 - Associated connectors.
17. Test emergency brake light on voltmeter. Should be on when E-brake is on and off when brake is off. This light will also light if the brake fluid is low or the master brake cylinder is malfunctioning. Possible problems to check:
 - Emergency brake switch K4 and associated connectors.
 - Brake reservoir sensor K5 and associated connectors.

- Diodes D1 and D2.
- Voltage meter brake light.

High Voltage 72V System

The following is the sequence of a properly operating vehicle with probable cause if there is a failure:

1. Turn on the 12V system as described above (12V cutoff switch on and key turned to 1st position).
2. Pull out red main disconnect switch (K21) under driver seat. This enables power from the 72V drive (traction) batteries.
3. The dash voltage meter should indicate the voltage. This will indicate about 84V if fully charged, about 72V if partially discharged and below 66 volts if badly discharged. See Owners Manual for battery break in and charging instructions. Possible problems to check:
 - 12V system is not operating properly, see previous section.
4. Fuse F6.
5. Contactor J4.
6. Press the green button if present. This places 72V on the DC/DC converter thus powering up the 12V system even if the 12V battery is too low. (The green button is an “emergency” start).
7. Associated connectors and wiring.
8. Place “F N R” direction switch K23 to “N” (neutral) position.
9. Turn key to 2nd position. (Note, 3rd position is used to start an internal combustion engine and hence is unused in this vehicle.) This enables the vehicle to drive.
10. Turn direction switch to “F” position. You should here a click from the rear of the vehicle when forward contactor J3 closes. Possible problems to check:
 - Charging cord plugged into wall.
11. Fuse F5.
12. Relay JDac (activated by charging cord plugged into wall).
13. Relay JD5 (activated by key in 2nd position)
14. Direction switch K24.
15. Associated connectors and wiring.
16. When both the foot and emergency brakes are released you should hear a click as Main contactor J1 closes. Possible problems to check:
 - Diode D5.
17. Relay JD7.
18. Diode D3 and D4. (Note, these disable J1 if either the emergency or foot brakes are applied by energizing relay JD7.)
19. Associated connectors and wiring.
20. The main contactor will open if the switch is placed back in “N” or the foot or emergency brakes are engaged.
21. Pressing on the accelerator peddle will cause the vehicle to move forward. Possible problems to check:
 - Make sure the battery charging cord is unplugged from the wall (this controls relay JDac).
22. Relay JDac.

23. Make sure accelerator pot wires are securely plugged onto pins 2 and 3 of motor controller A21.
24. Make sure the controller power wire is securely plugged onto pin 1 of motor controller A21.
25. Associated connectors and wiring.
26. Turn the switch to the “R” position only when the vehicle is stopped. Then press the red “Reverse” button.
27. You will here a click as the reverse contactor closes. Possible problems to check:
 - Charging cord plugged into wall.
28. Fuse F5.
29. Relay JDac (activated by charging cord plugged into wall).
30. Relay JD5 (activated by key in 2nd position)
31. Direction switch K24.
32. Associated connectors and wiring.
33. The reverse lights and beeper will activate. Possible problems to check:
 - Relay JD1.
34. Backup lights.
35. Beeper located inside rear deck lid.
36. Associated connectors and wiring.
37. When both the foot and emergency brakes are released you should hear a click as the main contactor J1 closes.
38. Pressing on the accelerator peddle will cause the vehicle to move in reverse. Possible problems to check:
 - Make sure the battery charging cord is unplugged from the wall (this controls relay JDac).
39. Relay JDac.
40. Make sure accelerator pot wires are securely plugged onto pins 2 and 3 of motor controller A21.
41. Make sure the controller power wire is securely plugged onto pin 1 of motor controller A21.
42. Associated connectors and wiring.

Electrical Troubleshooting by Problem

No 12 volts:

1. Turn on 12V power cutoff switch K25.
2. Turn on key to position 1 (1st click).
3. Fuse F2 blown.
4. On some vehicles there is a glass in-line fuse (F7) under the right dash. Check to make sure not blown.
5. 12V battery discharged so not enough energy to close JD4 and JD8.
6. On newer vehicles there is a green emergency start button on the dash. Turn on (pull out) 72V main disconnect (K21). You may press this button to start the DC/DC converter which will then charge the 12V battery. You may unplug the center headlight to charge the battery quicker.
7. If 12V battery won't hold a charge, replace.
8. Make sure ignition switch is not bad.

No DC/DC converter output:

1. If the DC/DC converter is working, the 12V battery will change voltage from about 12.9V (or lower) when the key is turned off to +13.0V or greater when the key is turned on.
2. Turn on 12V power cutoff switch K25.
3. Turn on key to position 1 (1st click).
4. Turn on (pull out) 72V main disconnect (K21).
5. The dash voltmeter should now indicate traction battery pack voltage.
6. Check main fuse F9 (under the rear seat in rubber boot).
7. Check voltage on each battery in the traction battery stack. Each battery should not differ by more than - .05 volts from the battery with the highest voltage. Charge any low battery with a 12V battery charger to try to bring up that battery voltage by eliminating plate sulfation. Also check battery wires for loose or corroded connections.
8. Fuse F1 blown.
9. Fuse F6 blown.
10. 12V battery discharged so not enough energy to close JD4. (See "No 12 volts" section above.)
11. DC/DC converter bad.

Won't drive forward:

1. Make sure 12V system is on as described above and DC/DC converter is functioning.
2. Set direction switch K23 to "F".
3. Unplug vehicle from wall socket. (Charge interlock will prevent the vehicle from going)
4. Make sure emergency and foot brake are off.
5. Fuse F5 blown.
6. Diode D6 bad.
7. If forward contactor J3 does not close, the charger disable relay JDac, JD5, control contactor J4 or fuse F5 could be bad.
8. If motor controller A21 green power light does not come on, diode D5 could be bad or controller power wire T9 connection could be loose or off.
9. If main contactor J1 does not activate, relay JD7, diodes D3 or D4 and foot and emergency brake switches could be bad in addition to above.
10. The 5K accelerator A25 could be bad or the connectors could be off or loose on controller A21.
11. Main contactor J1, forward contactor J3, controller A21 or motor A22 could be bad.
12. The motor controller should have a solid green light if all is OK, see motor controller below if there is a problem.

Won't drive in Reverse:

1. Set direction switch to "R".
2. Press and release the reverse button K22.
3. Same description as above but substitute diode D6 and reverse contactor J2.
4. The backup lights should come on and the reverse beeper should start sounding.
5. If reverse button K22 must be held in, relay JD2 could be bad.
6. If the backup lights and beeper don't work, relay JD1, the lights or beeper could be bad.

Vehicle won't charge:

1. No power at wall socket, check circuit breaker at box.
2. Charging cord not plugged in, or cord is faulty.
3. Charger fuse F8 is blown.

4. Red main disconnect K21 is off. Pull OUT to turn on.
5. Check main fuse F9 (under the rear seat in rubber boot).
6. Break in main voltage stack. Check wiring and main battery connections. Clean repair, any corroded or broken connections.
7. Charge interlock loose or faulty. Adjust or Replace.
8. Defective Charger. The charger will light the four lights in sequence as it goes through its different charging stages and ends with the cooling fan off and the red light closest to you lit in red. This is described in your separate charger manual.

Test charger and batteries:

To test the charger:

1. Run the vehicle until the batteries are very discharged.
2. Connect your Kill-A-Watt meter (available from Zap) to an AC outlet.
3. Plug the vehicle into the Kill-A-Watt meter.
4. Wait for the charging cycle to complete. This is indicated by two yellow lights, one red light (middle light) and no fan operation for the BC2-7215B. The Delta-Q illuminates the full battery light. Note, the Delta-Q does not have a fan because it is fully sealed.
5. Press the kWh button on the right of the Kill-A-Watt meter.
6. The reading should be 4.5 kWh or higher depending on how discharged your batteries were before you started charging.
7. If below 4.5 kWh your charger might not be working properly or your batteries could be bad.

To check your battery voltages:

1. After the full charge, turn your heater on for several minutes.
2. While the heater is running, check the voltage of each battery with a digital volt meter.
3. Each reading should be around 12.65 or higher.
4. Also important is that your lowest reading battery is not more than 0.10V lower than your highest reading battery.
5. Consider adding PowerCheq modules (five required) to keep your batteries equalized and greatly extending the life of the batteries.
6. Any batteries with voltages lower than the above may be bad.

Inadequate charge or range:

How are you driving? Drive style will affect range more than anything else. See how to extend your range.

1. Charge longer. You may have to unplug and re-plug to get the charger to restart.
2. Too cold, bring into heated garage for charging.
3. Wall socket voltage too low (must be 110VAC or greater).
4. Charging cord too long or wire gauge too small. Use 12/3 or 10/3 cord not longer than 12/25 feet.
5. Check to see if brakes are rubbing. Adjust if needed.
6. Check tire pressure. Must be 36 PSI.
7. Traction batteries are not charged equally. Each battery should not differ by more than - 0.1 volts from the battery with the highest voltage. Charge any low battery with a 12V battery charger to try to bring up that battery voltage up by eliminating plate sulfation. If can't, replace battery.

8. Make sure all battery, battery charger, contactor, motor controller and motor wires are tight clean and not corroded.
9. Defective charger.
10. Defective motor.
11. 12V battery is dead (low):
12. Most vehicles have a 12V power cutoff switch. This is the far right switch on the dash. If this is not turned off the battery will discharge to a state where it cannot re-start the vehicle after about 5 days. Be sure and turn this switch off each time you leave the vehicle.
13. On some vehicles the 12V battery must be charged by a portable charger by taking the battery out and connecting to the battery terminals. On later models the cigarette lighter is wired directly to the 12V battery and can be charged with a cigarette lighter adapter connected to the charger.
14. On newer vehicles there is a green emergency start button on the dash. Turn on (pull out) 72V main disconnect (K21). You may press this button to start the DC/DC converter which will then charge the 12V battery. You may unplug the center headlight to charge the battery quicker.

Alltrax Motor Controller

- The motor controller should have a solid green light if the key is on, the brakes are off and the vehicle is in forward (or reverse).
- Double check to make sure the three wires small wires are tightly crimped to the motor controller blade lugs. (P1 is the main contactor coil wire T9, P2 and P3 connect to the throttle pot A25 and P4 connects to the reverse contactor coil wire T7. P4 is not connected on earlier versions.
- The motor controller can indicate the following faults by blinking a red LED:

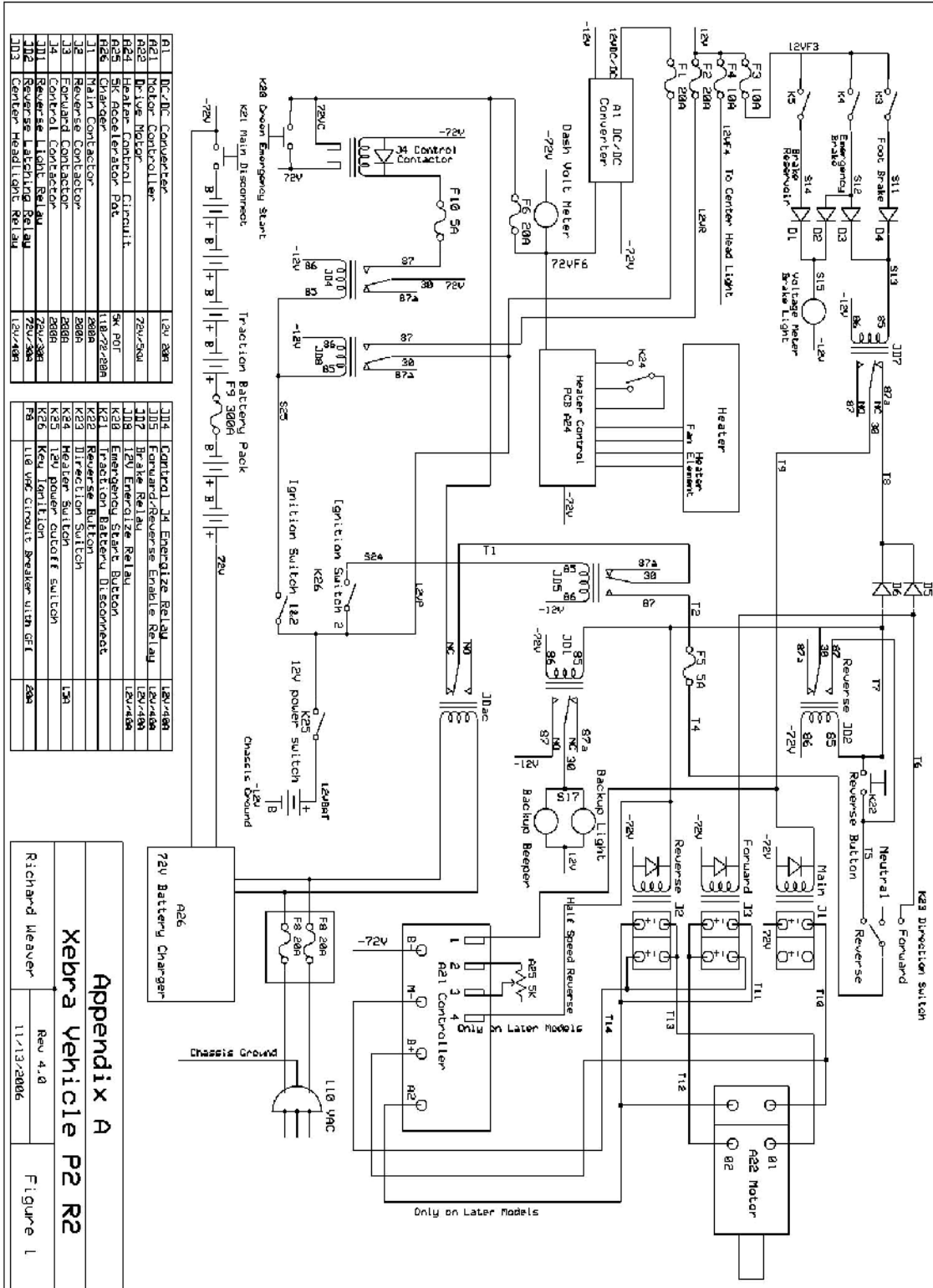
- 1 Red - Accelerator peddle pot over range or disconnected.
- 2 Red - Colder than -25C.
- 3 Red - Accelerator pedal pot has not gone to zero.
- 4 Red - Hotter than 95C.
- 6 Red - Traction battery under voltage detected.
- 7 Red - Traction batter over voltage detected.

The web site is located at http://www.alltraxinc.com/Products_AXE.html. The 300A is model 7234 and 450A model is 7245.

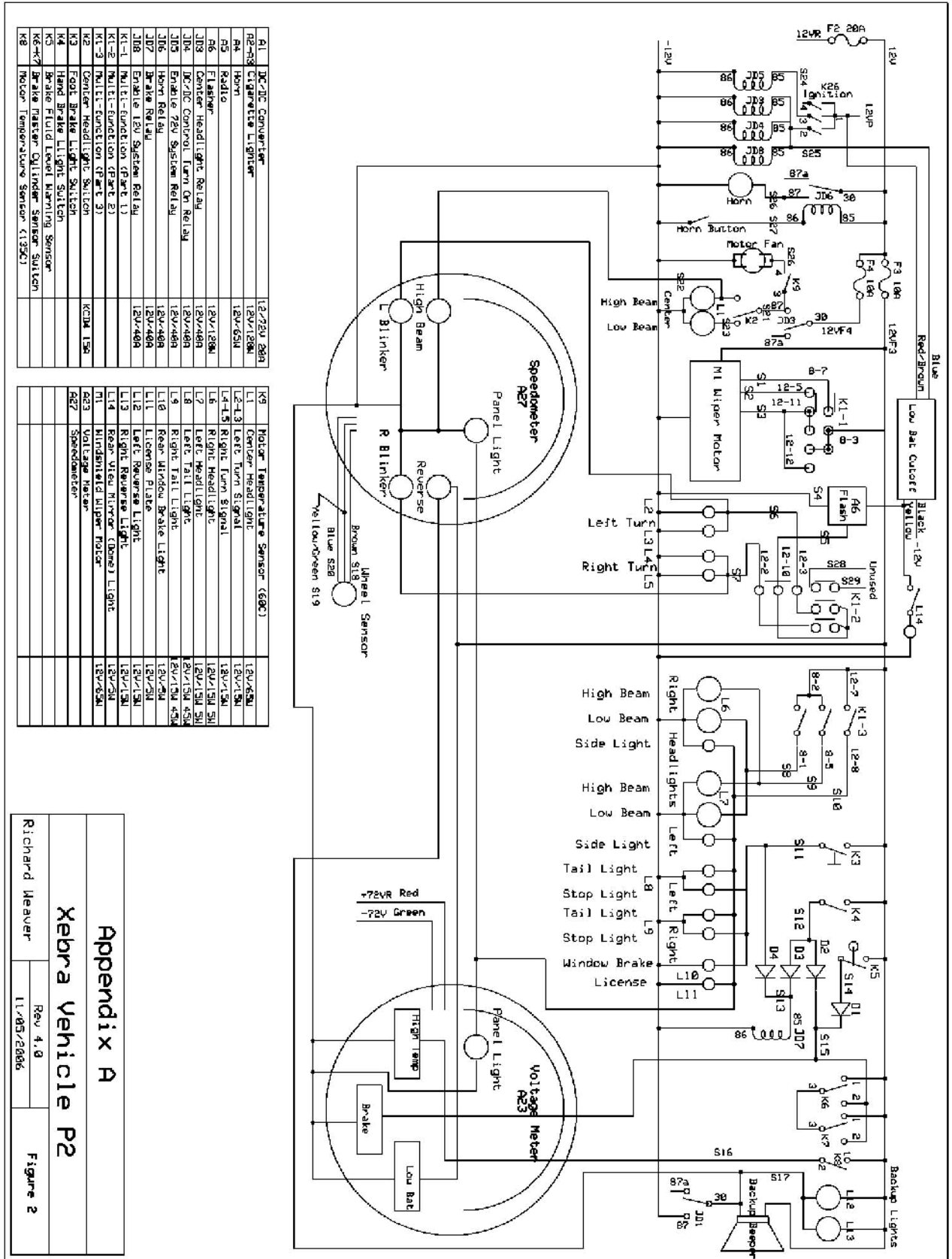
Radio

If your radio looses its presets when you turn the car off you need to connect the yellow wire from the radio to the unswitched side of the 12V cutoff switch. Look behind your dash and locate the yellow wire coming from the back of the stereo. Locate the connector it goes into. There should be a red, black and yellow wire in that connector. Cut the yellow wire at the connector end. Splice wire onto the yellow wire and connect to the unswitched side of the 12V cutoff switch.

Appendix A Figure 1; 72V schematic

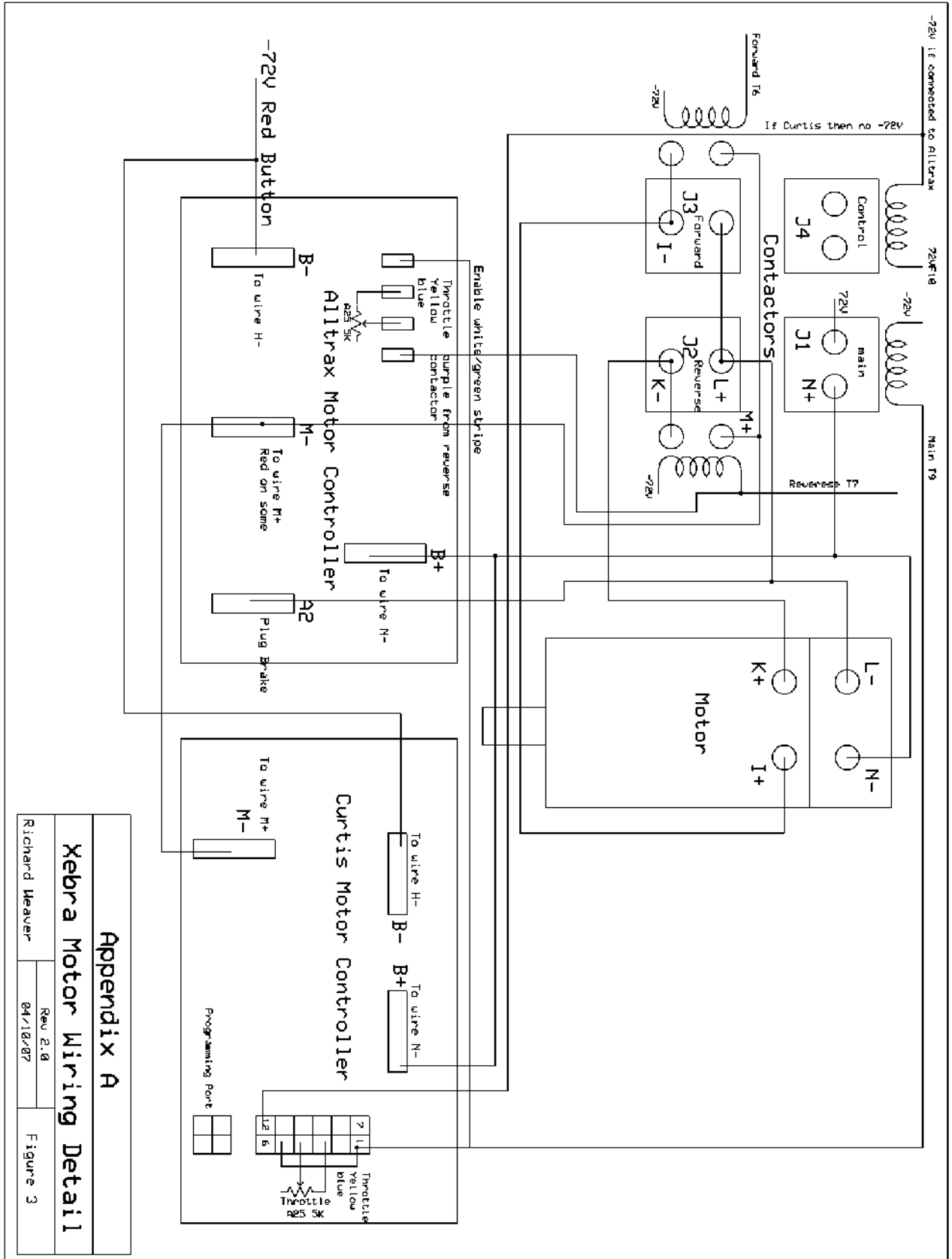


Appendix A Figure 2; 12V schematic



Appendix A
Xebra Vehicle P2
Richard Weaver Rev 4.0
11/05/2006 Figure 2

Appendix A Motor/Motor Controller/Contactor wiring detail



Appendix A

Xebra Motor Wiring Detail

Richard Weaver	Rev 2.0
	04/18/87

Figure 3