HOW TO JUMP START A CAR
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WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Jump leads
- Another car with similar sized engine to your car
- Gloves

USEFUL TO HAVE

- Safety goggles
- Warning triangle
- Torch

HANDY TIPS

- It is worth taking the time to consider why the battery went flat. Were the lights or the radio left on, something that would obviously drain the battery. If not, there may be a fault with the battery or alternator so visit a garage as soon as possible to get it checked before it happens again.
- You need to carry a warning triangle in your car by law in most European countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Ireland, and if you’re driving in Spain you’ll need two warning triangles.
You need to consider whether your car is parked in a safe location and where a second car can safely park. If it is not safe then call a roadside assistance firm.

If you are safely parked with space around your car, then ensure that the car is switched off and the handbrake is firmly applied. Consider placing a warning triangle 4.5m behind you if you are by the road.

Pop the bonnet and make sure it’s safely propped up using the car’s bonnet rod.

Inspect the battery and check if there is any sign of damage or leakage, if there is, then don’t perform a jump start. The battery will need to be checked by a professional and possibly replaced.

Open the bonnet of the second car and secure it open. Now find where the battery you’ll be using to perform the jump start is located in the car and check that the jump leads will stretch between the two car batteries.

Leave enough space between the cars to give you room to move around, making sure the second car is switched off and the handbrake is applied.
There are two jump leads, one red, positive and one black, negative.

Take the red, positive jump lead and attach one end, using the clip, to the red, positive terminal on the battery of the good car. There may be a red cap that needs to be removed first. A ‘+’ sign signifies that this is the positive terminal. Now attach the other end of the red positive jump lead to the red positive terminal of your car’s flat battery.

Get the black negative jump lead and attach one clip to the black negative terminal of the good car’s battery. This may have a black cap, which you may need to remove, and has a ‘–’ sign. Now attach the other end of the black negative jump lead to the black negative terminal of your car’s flat battery.

Start the car with the good battery and leave it a few moments for the flat battery to begin to recharge. Then start your car and leave for 10 minutes. Should the jump leads start to overheat, then turn off both engines and allow them to cool for 10 minutes before removing.

At this point, it’s really important to remember that there is now live electricity running through the jump leads, so be careful when removing the leads and don’t touch the leads against one another or on to any car metal surface.

First, unclip the black negative jump lead from your car’s terminal, and then the other end from the other car. Remove the red positive jump lead from the other car first and then from your car.

Now that your car is up and running, remember to store the jump leads safely away ready for when you need them again and collect the warning triangle.