

# SOLAR iBOOST



## Installation and Operating Instructions

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## Technical Specifications

### Solar iBoost Controller:

Operating Voltage:	220 - 240 Vac
Control type:	1B
Maximum Permissible Loads:	13A Resistive (max 3kW immersion)
Operating Ambient Temperature Range:	0 to 40°C
Approvals:	EN 60730-2-7, EN 301 489-3, EN 300 220
Dimensions:	210 x 131 x 67 mm

### Solar iBoost Sender:

Battery Type:	2 x AA IEC LR6 1.5V alkaline (supplied)
Battery Life Cycle:	1 year (user replaceable)
Operating Radio Frequency	868.3 MHz
Radio Range	1 to 30m indoors (dependant on construction and local conditions)
Operating Ambient Temperature Range:	-5 to 40°C
Approvals:	EN 60950, EN 301 489-3, EN 300 220
Dimensions:	95 x 75 x 35 mm (excluding clamp)

# Thank you for purchasing a Solar iBoost.

## Before use please read these instructions carefully

**These instructions provide information on the installation, operation and programming of the unit. Please keep this booklet safe for future reference.**

The Solar iBoost is designed to be used in conjunction with micro-generation systems, e.g. solar PV, where surplus energy generated can be stored within a domestic hot water cylinder in the form of hot water. By monitoring the amount of energy being exported to the National Grid the Solar iBoost unit will divert energy into an immersion heater when the energy generated exceeds the amount of energy consumed within the property. Solar iBoost controls the energy delivered to the immersion heater in proportion to that exported.

### Solar iBoost Features.

- Manual Boost and programmable Timed Boost (eg. For economy settings)
- A single, battery powered, wireless energy sensor - Sender
- Displayed energy saving information
- Up to 3kW immersion heater capability
- Dual immersion heater capability to enable timed settings for water heating from the grid where needed

### Checks Before Commencing Installation

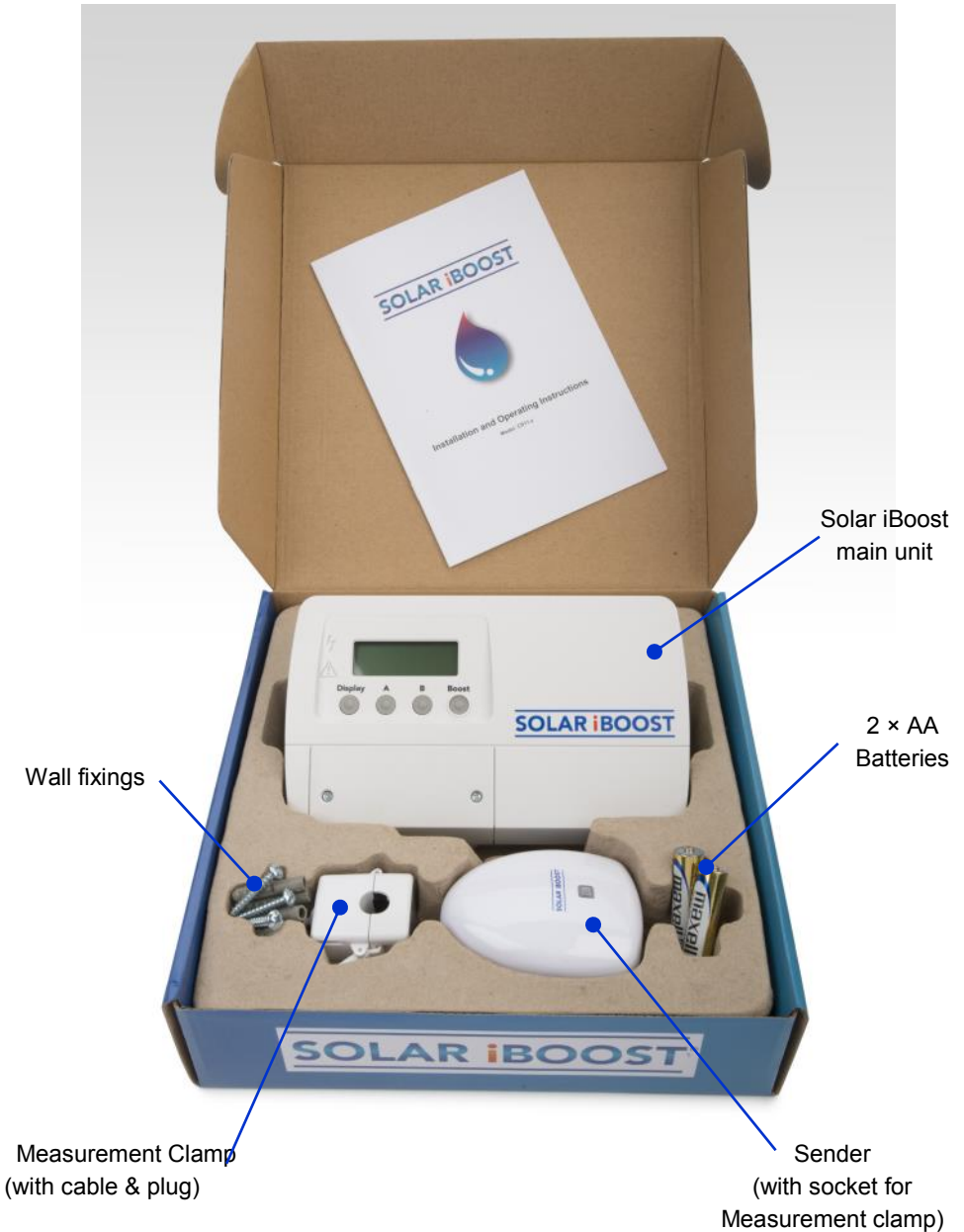


**Please note and ensure the following before commencing any installation...**

1. The electrical installation of this device must only be undertaken by a suitably trained and qualified electrician; all local safety standards must be observed. All work must satisfy Building/IEE Wiring regulations in force at the time.
2. Solar iBoost is suitable for water heating tanks with an immersion heater rated up to 3kW which **MUST** include a working thermostat.
3. There should be **NO** electronic controls between the Solar iBoost and the immersion heater, only direct connections to the immersion and mechanical thermostat are suitable for Solar iBoost.

# The Solar iBoost...

Check you have received:



# Solar iBoost Quick Start Guide

## Pre-Installation

1. Read **Checks Before Commencing Installation** and ensure compliance.
2. Locate a suitably **ventilated, flat and vertical surface** close to the hot water tank to fix the Solar iBoost, observing all clearances shown on page 6. Positioning should be convenient for running a cable from a fused spur to the Solar iBoost and on to the immersion element.

## Connection

3. Hard wire the Solar iBoost in accordance with the selected wiring diagram on page 7 following the IEE Regulations or local regulations. Replace the terminal cover but do not power up.
4. Connect the Measurement Clamp into the Sender and fit the batteries in the Sender. Keep the Sender at 1-2m from the main unit. Do NOT press the button on the Sender.
5. Switch on the power supply to the Solar iBoost and a short start up procedure runs until Water Heating Off if displayed.
6. Programme Time and Timed Boost times if desired. See page 12.

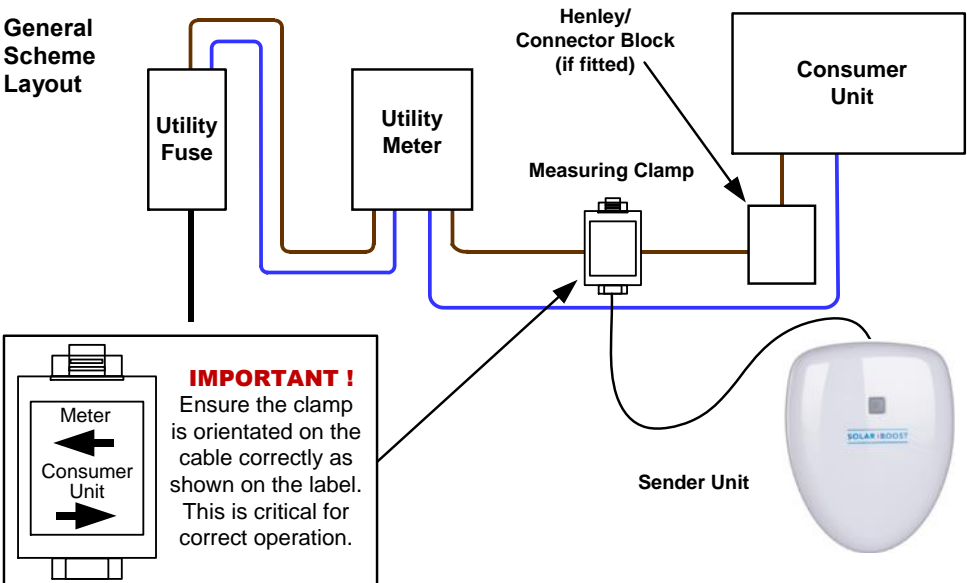
## Locate the Sender

7. At the utility meter (NOT the Generation meter) place the Measurement Clamp over the **household main incoming live cable** and latch into place. Note that the Clamp must be installed on the utility meter side of any connector (or Henley) blocks.  
**IMPORTANT:** the orientation of the clamp must be observed to ensure only excess current is detected and used for water heating.

## Test the System

8. If there is sufficient export energy the Solar iBoost will automatically display "Heating by Solar."
9. If "Tank Hot" displays run off some hot water.
10. If there is insufficient export energy, run the **Kettle Test** shown on page 10 to demonstrate that Solar iBoost can function.
11. Test the Boost button to check functionality, see page 14.

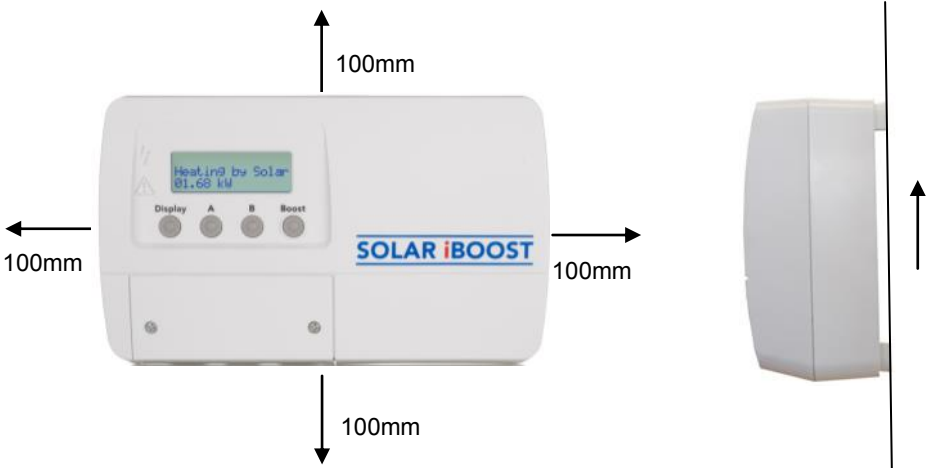
## General Scheme Layout



# 1. Installation

## Positioning

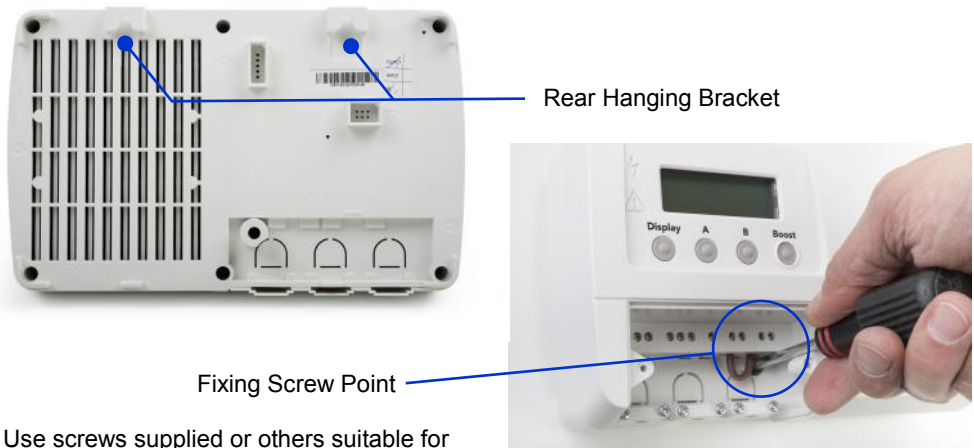
The Solar iBoost unit is typically located close to the hot water tank (airing cupboard or similar) and electrically connected between a fused outlet or MCB and the immersion element.



**Minimum clearance is 100mm all around. Do not allow airflow to be obstructed.**

## Fixing the iBoost

Two hanging brackets and a lower fixing point are provided:

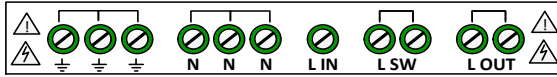


Use screws supplied or others suitable for the mounting surface.

## 2. Connecting the Solar iBoost

The Solar iBoost installation must be protected against overcurrent by connecting it via a 16A MCB or 13A fused outlet.

Remove the terminal cover, terminals are arranged as follows:



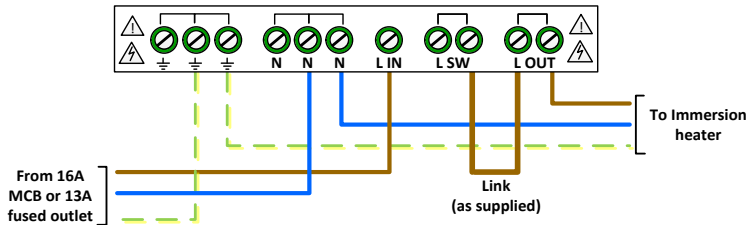
- Earth (all terminals common)
- N** Neutral (all terminals common)
- L IN** 230V Live Input—must be protected by 16A MCB or 13A fused outlet
- L SW** 230V Live Switched—output from boost relay, max 13A
- L OUT** 230V Live Out—controlled output to immersion element, max 13A

Hard wire the Solar iBoost in accordance with the selected wiring options below. Terminals allow the connection of 2.5mm<sup>2</sup> solid copper conductor or multi-strand cable. Ensure all terminals (including link wire) are fully tightened when the cables are fitted. Where necessary, invert the plastic cable clamp to provide the correct grip.

Replace the terminal cover, do not switch on power at this stage (see section 3)

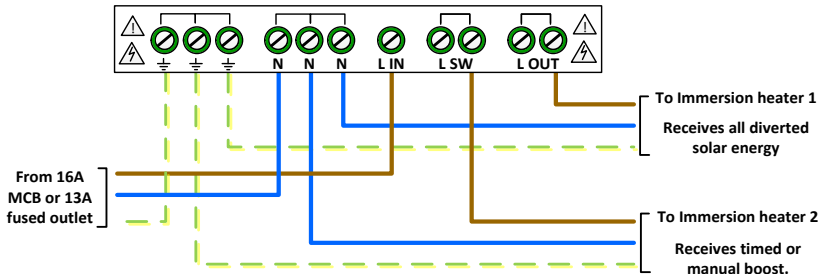
### Single Immersion Heater connection

Where a single immersion heater is fitted the wire link (supplied) should be connected as shown. This joins the Boost output to the controlled output allowing the grid Boost function to remain available via the Solar iBoost.



### Dual Immersion Heater Connection

Where two immersion heaters are present select one to receive controlled power from the Solar iBoost and the other to receive grid power on Timed or Manual Boost settings. The maximum load through the Solar iBoost must not exceed the 3kW limit. The controlled load output will be disconnected when the Timed or Boost relay is activated to prevent overload.



**Test that the thermal cut-out in the immersion heater functions, replace if necessary. Do not install the Solar iBoost where a functioning thermostat is not present**

### 3. Assembling the Sender and Measurement Clamp

The Sender unit has a Measurement Clamp that detects export current when correctly fitted on the live incoming supply cable from the utility meter. The unit sends measurements wirelessly to the iBoost unit.

The Sender and Solar iBoost units are factory paired. DO NOT PRESS THE BUTTON ON THE SENDER OR PAIRING WILL BE LOST.

#### Assemble the Sender

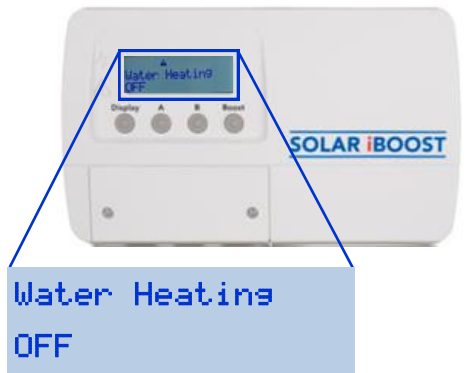
1. Fit the plug from the Measurement Clamp wire into the Sender.



2. Stand 1-2m away from the Solar iBoost and fit the batteries.



3. Switch on the power to the Solar iBoost. A set up procedure runs and the 2 devices connect automatically, usually within 30 seconds. If necessary follow the instructions for pairing on page 13.





## 4. Fitting the Measurement Clamp

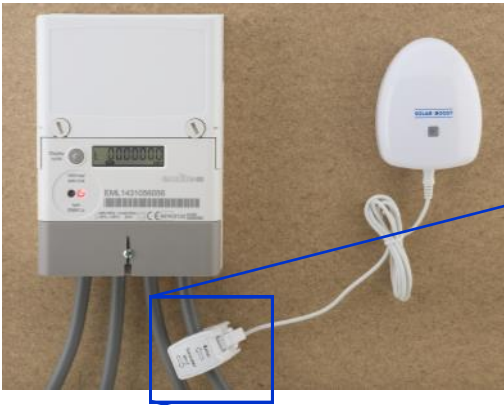
At the utility meter (CAUTION! Not the Generation meter) identify the live cable feed to the property's consumer unit.

Open the Measurement Clamp and remove any plastic packaging. Position the clamp around the cable observing the correct orientation as shown below. Close the Clamp and ensure that the latch is engaged.

**Note:** Mechanical meters (with rotating disks) can cause distortions to measurements. Position the clamp along the meter cable, away from the base of the meter.

### Fitting Examples

#### A. Utility meter live input to consumer unit **without** Henley /Connector blocks.



**IMPORTANT:** the orientation markings on the clamp must be observed to ensure only excess current is detected and used for water heating.



#### B. Utility meter live input to consumer unit **with** Henley / Connector blocks.



Where a Henley or other connector block is fitted, the Measurement Clamp is fitted between the utility meter and the connection block.

## 5. Test the System

- If there is sufficient export energy the Solar iBoost will automatically display “Heating by Solar.”  
Shutdown the PV array and the display changes to “Water Heating OFF” Reinststate the PV array and go to 7.
- If “Tank Hot” displays run off some hot water.
- If there is insufficient export energy run the **Kettle Test**. Follow these instructions carefully and ensure that when testing is complete the system is returned to its correct installation.


### Kettle Test


1. Shutdown the PV array following the procedures prescribed by the PV installer.
2. Reverse the orientation of the Measurement Clamp.
3. Switch on a kettle or similar high energy device.
4. Without delay check the Solar iBoost display.
5. Whilst the kettle is on the display shows 'Heating By Solar'.
6. If step 5 is successful the Solar iBoost has been proven to operate.

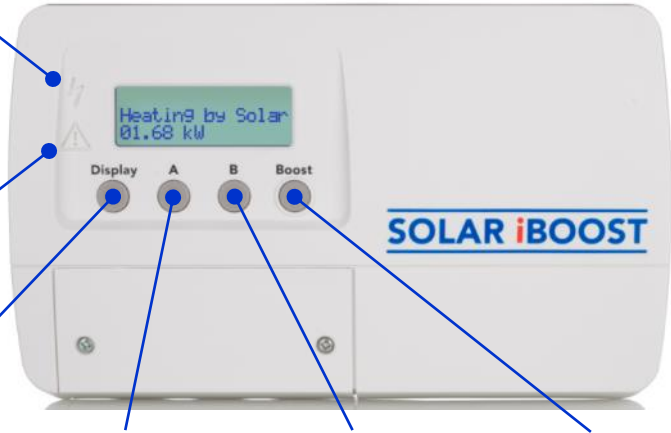
**IMPORTANT! Return the clamp to its correct operating position and switch on the PV array.**

7. Test the Boost button to check functionality.

# User Operation

 Flashes when energy is being diverted to the immersion heater. Symbol is permanently lit when any boost function is on

 Indicates a problem with the unit when lit (see Trouble Shooting)



## Display

Each press moves through the Display Cycle (see Display Cycle)

## A

Enables programming mode (see Programming)

## B

Enables the sender pairing process (see Pairing the Sender)

## Boost


Provides a Boost of Hot Water (see Manual Boost)

## Normal Operation

During normal operation the unit will show the following displays:

Heating by Solar  
01.45 kW

Solar iBoost is diverting energy to the hot water tank. The instant value of energy being diverted is shown.

When energy is diverted the blue light flashes: 

Water Tank  
HOT

Shown when the unit is attempting to divert energy to the immersion heater but tank has reached maximum temperature and switched off.

Water Heating  
OFF

There is no excess generation for the Solar iBoost to divert to the hot water tank.

These messages will be overridden when other functions such as timed or manual boost are active.

## Display Cycle

The display cycle allows the user to view the recorded energy saving. Each press of the **Display** button will move through the following sequence:

Saved Today 03.66 kWh	Present days energy diverted into the immersion heater
Saved Yesterday 10.56 kWh	Previous days energy diverted into the immersion heater
Saved Last 7 days 03.66 kWh	Total energy diverted into the immersion heater in the past 7 days
Saved Last 28 days 65.53 kWh	Total energy diverted into the immersion heater in the past 28 days
Saved Amount 390.20 kWh	Total value of energy diverted into the immersion heater since Solar iBoost was installed
Time 10:15	Current time in 24hr format

## Programming

The programming function allows:

- Setting the time of the clock
- Programming of 2 daily periods of Timed Boosts when grid power is automatically switched on to heat the water. This can be used in place of existing timers. During timed periods Solar iBoost does not divert excess generated energy.

The Solar iBoost unit is programmed using push buttons A and B. The first press of any button switches on the backlight only. To programme:

1. Press and hold button A for 3 seconds, release. The first item in the sequence opposite is shown (set time).
2. The first digit becomes active and flashes. Press button B, each press adds 1 to the value until the digit required is reached.
3. Press button A once to confirm and move on. Repeat 2, press A to confirm and move on.
4. The time setting is followed by Timed Boost 1 and 2 which can be set or kept at 00:00 throughout for no timed boosts.

Set Time  
10:15

Sets the internal clock time in hours and minutes.

Timed Boost 1  
00:00 to 00:00

Sets the start and end times for Timed Boost period 1 (e.g. morning) in hours and minutes. Once programmed the boost will occur each day. To disable the function, set both start and end times to 00:00.

Timed Boost 2  
00:00 to 00:00

Sets the Timed Boost for period 2 (e.g. evening). Operation as per Timed Boost 1

## Pairing the Sender Unit

The Solar iBoost and Sender are supplied uniquely paired and should not require the following operation.

However, if the signal becomes lost or a new pairing is required the following procedure should be performed with the sender positioned 1m or more from the Solar iBoost.

1. Press any button on the Solar iBoost to switch on the backlight.
2. Press and hold button B for 5 seconds then release.
3. When **Pairing with Sender** is displayed press and hold the green button on the Sender for up to 10 seconds to pair the devices.

Repeat the procedure if necessary until pairing is achieved.

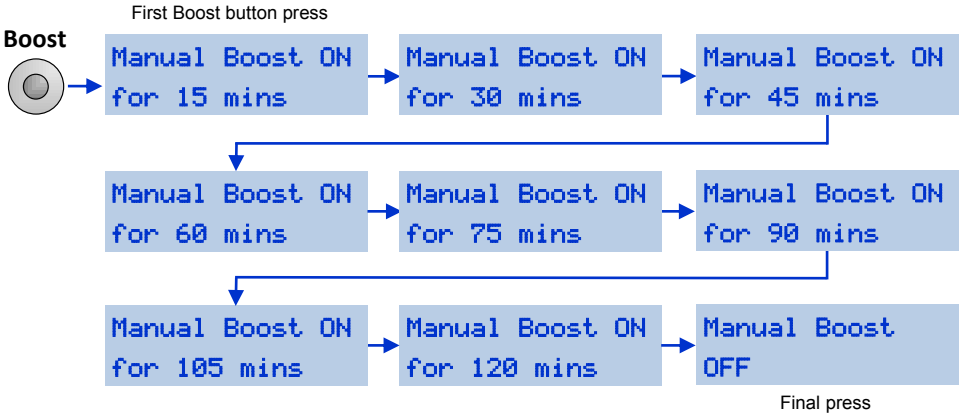
The result of pairing is shown on the screen as follows:



**IMPORTANT!** Do not press the sender button except when performing the pairing process. If it is pressed for more than one second the pairing may be lost and the display shows a 'Lost Signal' message (see Trouble Shooting). To correct, either reset the sender by removing and refitting the batteries or use the above procedure to reset the pairing.

## Manual Boost

- Switches on full grid power to the immersion heater for the period of time selected. Note that electricity is drawn from the grid which may be in excess of that being exported.
1. Press any button on the Solar iBoost to switch on the backlight.
  2. Each press of the Boost button adds 15 minutes to the boost time up to maximum of 2 hours. The amount of time remaining is shown on the display.
  3. To cancel the boost simply press the Boost button repeatedly until 'Manual Boost OFF' is shown.



## Troubleshooting - Warnings and Messages

The Solar iBoost internal diagnostics notify if any fault arises in the system. When a fault is detected the red warning triangle on the front of the unit is illuminated. A message on the display details the specific fault:



Sender Battery  
LOW

Batteries are low in the sender unit – replace batteries at earliest opportunity. **Do not** use rechargeable batteries.

Lost Signal to  
Sender

The unit is no longer receiving messages from the sender unit. Possible causes:

1. Batteries may be exhausted.
2. Solar iBoost unit is positioned too far or near to the sender.
3. Sender unit pairing button may have been pressed inadvertently outside of the pairing process (see Pairing the Sender)

Cooling...Unit  
over Temperature

The Solar iBoost unit is over its working temperature - Check that the unit is clear of obstructions and that there is adequate airflow to the unit. The unit will automatically recover when the internal temperature has reduced to within the normal operating range.

# Important Information about Legionella

Legionella bacteria are common and can be found naturally in environmental water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, usually in low numbers. As legionella bacteria are commonly encountered they may eventually colonise manufactured water systems and if conditions are favourable the number of bacteria may grow. Contamination risks are however low due to the low availability of nutrients and the regular chlorination of the water supply.

As with any hot water storage system it is important to avoid water stagnation and ensure the water is regularly heated to a minimum temperature of 55-60°C to reduce potential risks.

It is therefore recommended that the hot water tank be heated to 55-60°C at least once per week either using Boost facility or through other heating controls.

## Further Support

To find out more about how Solar iBoost works visit [www.solariboost.co.uk](http://www.solariboost.co.uk)

Consult your qualified installer / electrician for any user queries.

Technical support for qualified installers and electricians +44 (0) 1536 447866

## Limited Warranty

The SIB Energy Company Limited Warranty provides free replacement cover for all defects in parts and workmanship for 24 months from the date of purchase. SIB Energy Ltd obligation in this respect is limited to replacing parts which have been promptly reported to the seller and are in the seller's opinion defective and are so found by SIB Energy Ltd upon inspection. A valid proof of purchase is required if making a warranty claim.

Defective parts must be returned by prepaid post and accompanied by a Returns Authorisation available in advance from Marlec Engineering Company Limited, Rutland House, Trevithick Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 5XY, England, or to an authorised agent.

This Warranty is void in the event of improper installation, unauthorised service, use of unauthorised components, owner neglect, misuse or natural disasters including lightning strike. This warranty does not extend to ancillary equipment not supplied by the manufacturer. No responsibility is assumed for incidental damage. No responsibility is assumed for consequential damage.

**SIB Energy Limited**  
**Peterborough**  
**PE3 6SR**

# Maximising the Benefit of your Solar iBoost

Now you've got Solar iBoost installed here's a few tips to help you get the most benefit from it by allowing it the opportunity to divert as much power as possible into your immersion heater to create free hot water!

## Change the timer settings for your current water heater

With Solar iBoost installed you can minimise the use of your existing water heater system, using it to top up the "pre-heated" tank to full temperature. By changing the heating times to the end of the day only you are allowing the Solar iBoost to heat as much water as possible from the PV excess generation.

Simply reset your heating timer to after the sun goes down, but before you use much hot water (ie. washing up, evening baths and morning showers), this way you are guaranteed to have the hot water you want. If you heat by electric only, the Solar iBoost has an inbuilt timer that can be programmed to switch on your immersion heater from the grid, especially useful if you have low cost overnight tariffs.




## Use the Solar iBoost on the lower immersion element of you tank

Electric only tanks usually have an upper and lower immersion. It is the lower immersion that is able to fully heat the tank as water circulates throughout the tank by convection. If you have a single immersion heater at the top of the tank hot water concentrates at the top and better performance can be achieved by using an extra long immersion heater or installing a de-stratification pump to circulate the water.

## Vary your heating times by season

In the summer months you may find there is enough excess power from your PV array to fully/adequately heat your tank. During these months you might turn off your heating system to save energy and fully utilise the Solar iBoost. You can use the "Boost" function for the occasional short top up if needed. In

 winter you will need to use your existing heating system for longer to guarantee a full tank of water. Be Legionella aware and ensure that your whole tank reaches the required temperatures.



## Ensure your hot tank has adequate insulation

By insulating your hot water tank you should be able to enjoy the warm water from your day's solar heating through to the next morning. Water consumed in the morning will allow a new day's "heating by solar" to begin allowing the full benefit to be gained throughout the day.

## Reduce the base load consumed in your house

Reducing your home's energy consumption will maximise the excess power available for Solar iBoost to divert to your hot water tank. Switch off lights and turn off appliances rather than use standby. A Computer can use up to 400W, why not power it down when not in use?

Visit [www.solariboost.co.uk](http://www.solariboost.co.uk) for more information.