

Travel experiences with power conversion in foreign countries.

As long as a power source is 110-220v 50-60Hz there generally should be no problem, one just needs the correct plug configuration. Where most people had a problem with power was when its source was from a generator. It was suggested that one might want to have a volt meter on hand. Transformers with built-in surge protectors (or a separate power strip with a surge protector) were recommended. Several people said that their transformers exploded, so it is advisable to carry one or two spares. They did note, however, that the transformers exploded before there was any damage to their other equipment. Europe seemed to have the greatest assortment of plug configurations. Luggage stores, AAA, Best Buy were among some of the sources suggested. Magellan's (<http://www.magellans.com/>) is a good source for travel equipment, as well as, determining which power adapters one needs.

Nancy Perkins writes:

The Autoswitching Voltage Converter I used was purchased at The Luggage Center across the street from the Sun Valley Mall, near See's, as well as their sister store in Dublin, on Dublin Blvd., near Starbucks). For more info go to: <http://www.luggagecenter.com/index.asp>.

Autoswitching Voltage Converter, Model VCAB, 50-2000 Watt Converter, priced at \$39.99, by Voltage Valet. Voltage Valet is a Division of Hybrinetics, Inc., out of Santa Rosa. The box says that it can be used with motorized and electronic appliances rated up to 50 watts, including battery chargers, camcorders, cassette/CD players, digital cameras, electric shavers, etc. Use with non-electric heating appliance rated up to 2000 watts. It has automatic overload protection. It wasn't the cheapest device but but well worth it. I used it all the time both for recharging the camera battery and most importantly, the Wolverine. The box says it may require additional **Voltage Valet Adaptor Plugs** for some countries (which I didn't need; luggage store had in stock, just in case needed). The instructions had the country list, which was pretty extensive.

The other device I had, an **All-in-One Adapter with Surge Protector** was compact, one piece unit with 4 international adapters, cost was \$17.50, ordered from B&H's website at the time I purchased the Wolverine external storage unit. I didn't find the wall connection very clean as compared with the Voltage Converter, however, and the international adapters weren't easy to change out, in my opinion.

As a result, I pretty much used the other device for all the electrical connections, which was designed to carry high voltages.

The problem with "sparking" often has to do with the V capacity of the electrical in a given unit, or complex. My recommendation to traveling overseas is not to be running too many electrical appliances at the same time. I generally recharged my batteries in "off usage" times, such as late evenings or during the night. We did learn that we couldn't run a dishwasher and clothes dryer at the same time in a three BR unit in Positano, Italy. "Lesson learned" the hard way!