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We previously posted an article about the addition of a hard start capacitor to your air conditioner. For some of you that might have been a good alternative to the stock start capacitor that came with your air conditioner. It has been shown that the hard start capacitor is not as good a device for starting your air conditioner as a soft start device manufactured by Micro Air (there may be other soft start devices out there also). Experiments have been performed that showed the hard start capacitor peak start current at around 42.1 amps, while the soft start device showed peak start current at around 17.3 amps. The documentation with the air conditioner (13,500 BTU, or 15,000 BTU) stated that the locked rotor current would be around 54 amps. Thus, the soft start device allows the air conditioner to start while using about 70% less power than either the hard start capacitor or the stock start capacitor.

The exciting result of installation of this soft start device is that the air conditioner can now be started reliably with a 2000i Honda Generator! (or equivalent). Reducing the peak locked rotor start current will make your air conditioner start easier (smoother) and with less power, whether you choose to operate your air conditioner on shore power or your generator. This is a huge boost for the dry-campers out there as you will only need to carry one portable generator instead of the typical two coupled together. Having said this, one needs to be mindful of other 120 VAC loads and keep them to a minimum when using a single generator for operation of the air conditioner. For instance – putting the refrigerator on gas operation, putting the water heater on gas operation, and turning off any other significant power-using devices that might be operating.

The Micro-Air easy start device is easy to find on the internet. The company has posted detailed engineering data that can be understood by the professional or the lay person. There are also some great YouTube videos on how to install the Micro-Air easy start device. We are sure that you will find professional installation available in your area for the Micro-Air easy start device.

We look forward to seeing you, safely, down the road.