

# SOLAR POWERED

OK, I admit it. I am a hopeless tinkerer. I have to mess with everything I buy. I am never satisfied with the stock product. I have to say, however, that I am pretty darn pleased with my Minaska Big Country remote caller. It works like a charm and really gets out there in our desert hunting environment. Minaska's other callers are terrific too. Personally, I believe them to be the best. But that is just my opinion and it's free...so you know what that's worth.

Anyway, my caller is powered by a 12-voly, 1.2 amp hour gel cell battery. It lasts a good amount of time but since my caller also has a built-in motorized decoy, I was concerned about power consumption. Hence, the idea to use solar power to keep it charged up to optimum power level.

Sometimes it's nice to set your call box out and lay low for 30-minutes or so to let things settle down a bit. The shooters can hunker down 100-yards away and be well clear of being made by an incoming coyote. Setting the call box up with an attached solar panel allows it to be charging all the time and ready for action. A solar panel also allows you to charge the call box in the field, anywhere or anytime you have sun. It may also save your bacon if the battery in your hunt rig goes dead. Anyway, it's a simple project and pretty inexpensive. Here is how I did mine.

First you'll need a small solar panel. I got mine on eBay for \$24.95 and it pumps out 2-watts of sweet, free power. Here's the link [http://cgi.ebay.com/12-Volt-Solar-Battery-Charger-Car-Truck-Boat-w-plug\\_W0QQitemZ270338740269QQihZ017QQcategoryZ79845QQcmdZViewItem](http://cgi.ebay.com/12-Volt-Solar-Battery-Charger-Car-Truck-Boat-w-plug_W0QQitemZ270338740269QQihZ017QQcategoryZ79845QQcmdZViewItem)

**Output: 2+/- Watts / Actual size: 6-1/2"x4-3/4"x1/2"**



You'll have to cut off the cigar lighter plug and solder on the plug for the socket you want to use. I purchased a bulkhead female RCA socket to install on my call box and an RCA type male plug for the solar panel.



Here is what the outside of the RCA bulkhead mount socket looks like on my call box. One little hole and it's pretty much done.



Here is the inside. The plug is visible in the lower left hand corner of the photo, wired directly to the battery connections. **Make absolutely certain that your polarity is correct.**



In the field, I drape netting over the caller and one layer of netting over the solar panel. The netting breaks up the outline of the caller and the only thing that is exposed is my "Robo-Bunny" decoy.

This setup works well for me and the 12-volt solar panel should work well for most callers that use rechargeable batteries in the 12-volt range. *Have fun and slam a yote or two for me.....Red*