

**Subject: [c-a] Contactors (Solenoids)**

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Having just sold my auto electric business, I have a little insight into this. Solenoids are designed for High Amperage Short Term usage and Low Amperage Continues Duty. The number of "terminals" (lugs) is dependent upon the usage. The Two Large terminals are used for the Supply and Load of the system that the solenoid is used to support. The small terminals may be used as:

1. Energizing the solenoid (supplying power for the coil in the solenoid)
2. Tap to supply power to another function (i.e. bypassing the ballast resistor (voltage reducer))
3. Ground for the solenoid coil

The base or mounting plate may be either grounded or non grounded.

I suggest that for aircraft usage the solenoids you choose (High Amperage or Continues Duty) be of the Silver Contact type. This will increase the life of the Solenoid tremendously. Although they do cost more. Check with a local Auto Electric Rebuilder, you may be surprised with the service and expertise you can get, and an Auto Electric Rebuilder usually can get his American made parts for far less than the the Automotive Parts Stores, and should pass some of the savings on to you. The thing to remember is that they too can get parts form overseas, or from American sources. You have to tell them what you want.

Chick (Velocity FG on order)

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