



## Ring PowerSource Inverter RINVU300

Best price: £24.89 Power: 300 Watts Rating: ★★★★★  
Contact: 0113 213 7379, [www.ringautomotive.com](http://www.ringautomotive.com)

**BEST BUY** IT seems the adage of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' applied to our winner, as it appeared unchanged for 2016 – apart from a better price. It powered everything, with just the briefest stutter as we added the laptop and drill charger, while the USB socket worked with our Apple devices. It's light at 496g, and its battery connection leads are long, at 930mm. The only gripe was the noisy fan, which operated regardless of load.



## Bestek Power Inverter MR13013BU

Best price: £25.88 Power: 300 Watts Rating: ★★★★★  
Contact: 020 8648 1668, [www.bestekcorp.com](http://www.bestekcorp.com)

**RECOMMENDED** AT 120mm long and weighing 465g, the Bestek was the smallest device here. It was the only one with two Apple-compatible USBs, and they worked when the inverter was off, although they were tightly positioned next to the mains socket. Once on, the fan ran continually, but the unit powered all of our devices, although it struggled a little with the two bigger items.



## Silverline 263764

Best price: £44.99 Power: 700 Watts Rating: ★★★★★  
Contact: 01935 382222, [www.silverlinetools.com](http://www.silverlinetools.com)

**FINISHED** appropriately in silver, this Silverline unit was the most powerful we tried, with a 700W rating. It was the largest, too, at 210mm long and weighing 975g – more than twice as heavy as the Bestek (above). It was too powerful for a standard 12V socket, so had to be connected directly to the battery, but the twin leads were the shortest here, at 660mm. The efficient fan was barely audible with the smaller devices connected, and it made little noise with the laptop or drill charger plugged in.

## Clarke C1800B

Best price: £41.99 Power: 400 Watts Rating: ★★★★★  
Contact: 01992 565333, [www.clarkeinternational.com](http://www.clarkeinternational.com)

**THERE** was no USB socket on this Clarke unit, but it was rated at 400W and tipped the scales at 843g, so we expected real performance. And that's what it delivered. After we connected it directly to the battery, it easily powered all of our devices. We can only assume that the fan worked, because it didn't engage in our tests, despite running everything for over 10 minutes. This suggests some serious internal efficiency and excellent cooling.



# INVERTERS

Top buys to switch a car's 12V power to more versatile 240V

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**AE** Dave Pollard

WE'D all be lost without our portable electronics, but keeping them charged and fully operational can be a real hassle when you're out and about.

Not every device comes with a 12-Volt power supply, but you can use an inverter to convert your car's socket into a more versatile 240V, enabling you to plug in phones, tablets, MP3 players, cameras and more, without the need for an adaptor.

An inverter can also be useful for powering the chargers for portable tools such as drills or sanders, or workshop lights where mains power isn't available. We connected eight to discover which one leads the charge.

## How we tested them



We used a range of devices, including an iPhone 6, Blackberry 8800, iPad 4 and an HP Pavilion laptop to test these inverters. In addition, we used two pieces of garage kit in the shape of an 18V cordless drill charger and a 24-LED lead light. The best inverters could cope with all these devices being connected at the same time.

Those that included a USB socket gained extra points, especially if it could power Apple devices; not all USB inputs can. Longer leads added versatility and we took note of noisy cooling fans when in use. Plus, of course, everything was related to the best online price.

## Verdict

THE Ring RINVU300 keeps its crown, balancing performance with a great price, while the Bestek would be ideal for the glovebox. If you're after maximum power, check out the mighty Silverline 263764.

1. Ring PowerSource Inverter RINVU300
2. Bestek Power Inverter MR13013BU
3. Silverline 263764

## Draper 28815

Best price: £62.47 Power: 400 Watts Rating: ★★★  
Contact: 023 8049 49333, [www.draperools.com](http://www.draperools.com)

**LIKE** the Clarke (opposite), this Draper is rated at 400W, although it also has a non-Apple-compatible USB socket. There were long leads, but it needed a separate earth connection. The low-load items were no trouble, and the fan only cut in with the laptop connected. A high price tag marked it down.



## Sealey Power Inverter P1300

Best price: £46.95 Power: 300 Watts Rating: ★★★  
Contact: 01284 757500, [www.sealey.co.uk](http://www.sealey.co.uk)

**DESPITE** its 300W rating, this Sealey was a hefty piece of kit, weighing in at 709g. It was the only unit with 12V and direct battery leads, but the USB couldn't cope with our Apple devices. While the fan cut in occasionally as it absorbed extra load, the unit couldn't handle our two bigger loads together.



## Absaar P1-150

Best price: £32.95 Power: 150 Watts Rating: ★★★  
Contact: 01743 761107, [www.absaar.com](http://www.absaar.com)

**THE** Absaar is 20mm longer than the Bestek, but only rated at 150W. The red LED on the 12V plug denoting power connection was useful, while the USB socket powered our Apple kit. As the loads rose, so did fan speed, but the unit's low output meant we couldn't add the high-drain devices.



## Draper 28814 200W

Best price: £35 Power: 200 Watts Rating: ★★  
Contact: 023 8049 49333, [www.draperools.com](http://www.draperools.com)

**WITH** only 200W on offer, the second Draper was fine with a 12V lead, but it needed a separate earth connection. While it coped well with the low-power kit, it refused to supply both laptop and charger – it was one or the other. The fan was quieter than the Ring's, yet the USB didn't charge our Apple kit.

