How Many 21700 Cells Are Needed to Assemble a 48V Battery?

If you're designing energy storage systems or custom battery packs, understanding how to calculate the required number of 21700 lithium-ion cells for a 48V system is critical. This guide breaks down the math, practical considerations, and industry examples to help you optimize your design.

A single *21700 cell* typically has a nominal voltage of 3.6V-3.7V. To reach 48V, you need to connect multiple cells in /series/. But voltage alone isn the whole story (measured in ampere-hours, or Ah) and discharge rate also play key roles.

Step-by-Step Calculation

Step 1: Divide the target voltage (48V) by the nominal voltage per cell (3.7V).

48V 3.7V 13 cells in series (rounded up)

Step 2: Determine capacity needs. For example, if your application requires 100Ah:

A single 21700 cell provides ~5Ah (e.g., Samsung 50E).

100Ah 5Ah = 20 cells in parallel

Total cells:* 13 (series) 20 (parallel) = *260 cells

While the math seems straightforward, real-world applications require adjustments:

"In our tests, a 13S20P configuration using 21700 cells achieved 47.5V under load enough for most industrial applications. However, cell balancing and temperature management are non-negotiable for longevity." EK SOLAR Engineering Team

Configuration Total Cells Voltage Range Capacity (Ah) 14S15P 210 51.8V-58.8V 75Ah 13S20P 260 46.8V-54.6V 100Ah 12S24P 288 43.2V-50.4V 120Ah

21700 cells are increasingly popular in:

Solar energy storage: Compact size and high energy density make them ideal for residential setups.

Electric vehicles: Tesla Model 3 uses 4,416 21700 cells in its 75kWh battery pack.

Industrial UPS: A 48V backup system with 260 cells can power a small factory for 4-6 hours.

Pro Tip: Always include a 10-15% buffer in your capacity calculations to account for cell aging and efficiency losses!

Why Choose 21700 Over Other Cell Types?

Compared to 18650 cells, 21700s offer:

20% higher energy density

Longer cycle life (1,000+ charges)

Better thermal stability

With over a decade in renewable energy solutions, *EK SOLAR* specializes in custom battery packs for global clients. Our 48V systems power:

Off-grid solar installations in Southeast Asia

Telecom backup systems across Africa

Marine applications in Europe

Need a tailored solution? Contact our engineers at ekomedsolar@gmail.com or via WhatsApp: +86 138 1658 3346.

Building a 48V battery with 21700 cells requires balancing voltage, capacity, and real-world performance factors. While 260 cells (13S20P) is a common starting point, always validate your design with load testing and professional guidance.

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FAQ

Q: Can I mix different 21700 cell brands?

A: Not recommended in internal resistance can cause imbalances.

Q: What the minimum cell count for 48V?

A: 14 cells in series (14 but voltage sag may drop it below 48V under load.

Did You Know? The number "21700" refers to the cell dimensions: 21mm diameter 70mm height.

For more information or to discuss your inverter and power system needs:

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