DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR-POWERED MOBILE CHARGER

BY

Adeyemo, Abdulsalam Adekunle
ND/23/EEE/FT/0023

SUBMITTED TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING,
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN.

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND) CERTIFICATE IN ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

JULY, 2025

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by Adeyemo, Abdulsalam Adekunle with Matriculation Number ND/23/EEE/FT/0023 in the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of National Diploma (ND) Certificate in Electrical/Electronics Engineering.

....	____________
ENGR. MUHAMMED M.	
PROJECT SUPERVISOR	**DATE**
....	____________
ENGR. ABULKADIR Z. A	
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR	**DATE**
....	____________
ENGR. O.A. LAWAL	
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	**DATE**
....	____________
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	**DATE**

DEDICATION

This project is wholeheartedly dedicated to Almighty Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful, whose strength and wisdom have brought me this far. It is also dedicated to my loving family and mentors who supported me throughout my academic journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I give all praise and thanks to Allah (SWT) for His guidance, mercy, and favour which enabled me to complete this project successfully.

My sincere appreciation goes to my supervisor, Engr. Muhammed M., for his patience, guidance, encouragement, and insightful contributions towards the success of this project. I also appreciate the Head of Department, Engr. A.O. Lawal, and the entire faculty members of the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, for their efforts in imparting knowledge and mentoring me throughout my academic journey.

Special thanks to my family for their unending support—spiritually, morally, and financially. I am forever grateful to my colleagues and friends who shared their ideas, time, and efforts to make this project a success.

May Allah bless you all abundantly.

ABSTRACT

The increasing dependence on mobile devices necessitates the development of portable and sustainable charging solutions, especially in regions with unreliable electricity supply. This project focuses on the design and implementation of a solar-powered mobile charger that harnesses solar energy, stores it in a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, and delivers a stable 5V output suitable for USB charging.

The system consists of a 6V solar panel, a TP4056 battery management circuit, a lithium-ion battery, a voltage regulator (LM7805 or LM2596), and a USB charging port housed within a portable plastic enclosure. A Schottky diode prevents reverse current, and LEDs are used as indicators.

The device was tested under various sunlight conditions, and its performance was evaluated in terms of charging efficiency, output voltage stability, and compatibility with mobile devices. Results showed that the system could efficiently charge mobile phones with minimal losses.

This project presents a low-cost, renewable energy-based charging solution suitable for remote areas, outdoor activities, and emergency backup power needs. Future improvements may include MPPT charge control, battery level display, and multiple USB ports.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER THREE

CHAPTER FOUR

CHAPTER FIVE

LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background

The rapid increase in mobile device usage has heightened the demand for reliable and portable charging solutions, especially in regions with limited access to electricity. Frequent power outages and lack of sustainable energy sources pose significant challenges in maintaining device functionality
[1]. Solar energy, being abundant and renewable, offers a viable solution to these challenges. This project aims to design and develop a solar-powered mobile charger that is compact, efficient, and environmentally friendly, leveraging electrical engineering principles to provide a sustainable power source.

1.2 Aim

The primary aim of this project is to design and implement a solar-powered mobile charger capable of harnessing solar energy to charge mobile devices effectively, providing a sustainable and portable energy solution.

1.3 Objective

- To design a compact and portable charging system using a 6V solar panel.
- To integrate a rechargeable battery (20000 – 30000mAh) for energy storage.
- To implement a TP4056 module for battery protection.
- To regulate output voltage to a stable 5V using LM7805 or buck converter.

- To test the charger’s performance under varying sunlight conditions.

1.4 Problem Statement

The growing reliance on smartphones and portable devices is hindered by limited access to reliable electricity, particularly in remote and developing regions. Power outages and the absence of portable charging solutions exacerbate this issue. This project addresses the need for an affordable, portable, and sustainable charging solution through the development of a solar-powered mobile charger.

1.5 Scope of the Work

This project focuses on:

- Designing a charger using a 6V, 5W solar panel and a 3.7V, 20003000mAh lithium-ion battery.
- Incorporate key components including a solar panel, TP4056, rechargeable battery, and voltage regulator.
- Limit to a single USB charging port delivering 5V.
- Testing will be done under typical daylight conditions without MPPT optimization.
- Excludes integration with AC grid or advanced displays.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

Solar-powered charging systems have been widely explored as sustainable energy solutions. According to [2], renewable energy systems, including solar chargers, are critical for addressing energy access challenges in developing regions. Previous studies, such as [3], have demonstrated the feasibility of small-scale solar systems for powering low-energy devices. However, many existing designs lack portability or are cost-prohibitive for widespread adoption.

Research by [4] highlights the efficiency of lithium-ion batteries in portable energy storage due to their high energy density and long lifespan. The integration of protection circuits, such as the TP4056 module, is essential to prevent overcharging and extend battery life [5]. Voltage regulation, as discussed in [6], ensures stable output for sensitive electronics, with buck converters offering higher efficiency than linear regulators like the LM7805.

Limitations in prior works include insufficient focus on compact designs and lack of performance data under varying sunlight conditions. This project builds on these findings by developing a portable, cost-effective charger with a focus on practical implementation and performance evaluation, addressing gaps in affordability and usability.

CHAPTER THREE

Methodology and Materials / Design and Implementation

3.1 System Overview

The solar-powered mobile charger consists of three main stages: energy generation (solar panel), energy storage (lithium-ion battery), and energy usage (USB output). The system is designed to be compact, portable, and efficient, with a focus on simplicity and Affordability.

3.2 Components

The following components were selected:

- Solar Panel: 6V, 5W, to generate electrical energy from sunlight.
- Lithium-ion Battery: 3.7V, 2500mAh (18650), for energy storage.
- TP4056 Module: For battery charging and protection.
- Buck Converter (LM2596): To regulate output to 5V.
- Schottky Diode: To prevent reverse current flow.
- Capacitors: 10ţF and 100ţF for voltage stabilization.
- USB-A Module: For device charging.
- Switch: To control power output.
- LED Indicators: Red for charging, green for fully charged.
- Plastic Enclosure: To house components.

3.3 Design and Implementation

3.3.1 Solar Panel Setup

The solar panel is mounted on the enclosures surface to maximize sunlight exposure. Its positive terminal is connected to a Schottky diodes anode, with the cathode feeding into the TP4056 module to prevent reverse current flow at night.

3.3.2 Battery Connection

The TP4056 modules input is connected to the solar panel via the diode. The modules output (B+ and B-) is connected to the 18650 battery, ensuring safe charging and
protection against overcharging or deep discharge.

3.3.3 Voltage Regulation

The battery output is fed into an LM2596 buck converter, which steps down the voltage
to a stable 5V. Capacitors (10ţF and 100ţF) are added at the input and output to smooth
voltage fluctuations.

3.3.4 USB Output

The regulated 5V output is connected to a USB-A port, with the positive terminal to
V+ and negative to GND, ensuring compatibility with standard mobile devices.

3.3.5 Switch and Indicators

An ON/OFF switch is placed between the battery and USB output to conserve power.

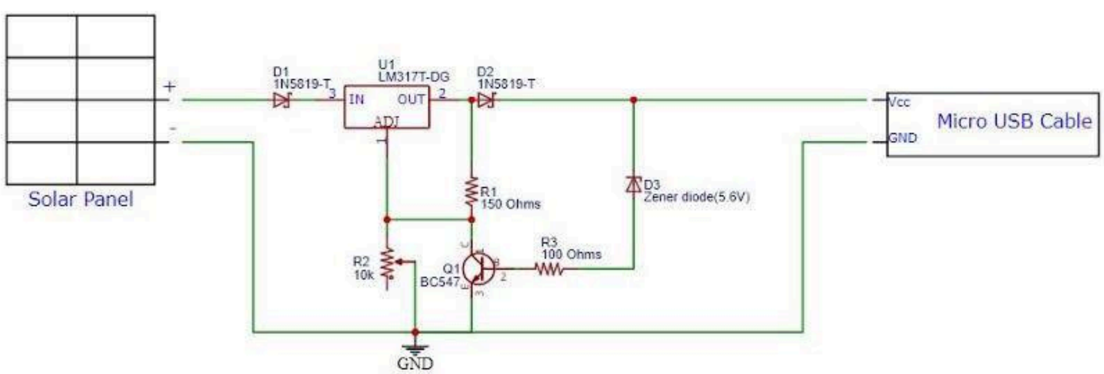
Red and green LEDs are connected to indicate charging and fully charged states, respectively.

3.3.6 Enclosure Design

All components are housed in a compact plastic box. Holes are drilled for the solar panel, USB port, switch, and LEDs. Foam tape secures components, and ventilation holes prevent overheating.

3.4 Circuit Diagram

The circuit follows the configuration:



CHAPTER FOUR

Results, Presentation and Discussion

4.1 Test Methodology

The charger was tested under the following conditions:

• Solar Panel Efficiency: Measured voltage and current output under direct sunlight, partial shade, and cloudy conditions.

• Battery Charging Time: Recorded time to fully charge the 2600mAh battery from a depleted state.

• Voltage Regulation: Verified stable 5V output using a multimeter.

• Mobile Charging: Tested charging performance with a smartphone.

4.2 Results

Table 1: Test Results for Solar-Powered Mobile Charger

Test Condition	Voltage (V)	Current (mA)	Time (hr)
Solar Panel (Direct Sunlight)	6.0	800	
Solar Panel (Partial Shade)	5.5	400	
Solar Panel (Cloudy)	4.8	200	

Battery Charging Time			4.5
USB Output Voltage	5.0	1000	2.0

4.3 Discussion

The solar panel performed optimally under direct sunlight, producing 6V and 800mA, sufficient to charge the battery in approximately 4.5 hours. In partial shade and cloudy conditions, output decreased, indicating the need for optimal panel placement. The buck converter maintained a stable 5V output, ensuring compatibility with USB devices. The smartphone charging test confirmed a full charge in 2 hours, comparable to standard wall chargers. Compared to [2], this design is more compact and cost-effective, though limited by single USB output and lack of advanced charge controllers.

Limitations include reduced efficiency in low sunlight and reliance on a single battery, which restricts continuous charging capacity. Future improvements could include an MPPT controller and multiple USB ports.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This project successfully designed and implemented a solar-powered mobile charger, achieving the aim of providing a sustainable and portable charging solution.
All objectives were met, including the design of a compact charger, integration of a rechargeable battery, stable 5V output, and performance evaluation. The charger is suitable for outdoor activities, emergency power, and educational demonstrations.

5.2 Recommendations

Future work could include:

- Incorporating an MPPT charge controller to enhance solar efficiency.
- Adding multiple USB ports for simultaneous device charging.
- Integrating an LCD display for real-time battery and charging status.
- Exploring alternative battery types for increased capacity.

5.3 References

References

[1] E. I. Ohimain, “Emerging bio-ethanol projects in Nigeria: their opportunities and challenges,” Energy Policy, vol. 38, pp. 7161–7168, 2010.

[2] F. Milano, L. Vanfretti, and J. C. Morataya, “An open source power system virtual laboratory: The PSAT case and experience,” IEEE Transactions on Education, vol. 51, pp. 17–23, 2008.

[3] M. F. Akorede, H. Hizam, I. Aris, and M. Z. A. Kadir, “Contingency evaluation for voltage security assessment of power systems,” in IEEE Student Conference on Research and Development (SCOReD), Serdang, Malaysia, 2009, pp. 345–348.

[4] J. A. Momoh, Electric Power System Applications of Optimization. New York: Marcel Dekker Inc, 2001.

[5] C. D. Roger, F. M. Mark, S. Surya, and H. W. Beaty, Electrical Power Systems Quality, 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Professional, 2002.

[6] V. Ajjarapu, Computational Techniques for Voltage Stability Assessment and Control. New York: Springer, 2006.

5.3 Bill of Engineering Measurement and Evaluation (BEME)

Description of Items	Quantity	Unit Price (N)	Total (N)
6V, 5W Solar Panel	1	10,000	10,000
18650 Lithium-ion Battery (2500mAh)	10	2000	20,000
TP4056 Charging Module	1	3500	3500
LM2596 Buck Converter	1	4000	4000

Schottky Diode	1	2000	2000
Capacitors (10ţF, 100ţF)	2	1000	2000
USB-A Module	1	2000	2000
Switch	1	1000	1000
LED Indicators (Red, Green)	2	500	1000
Plastic Enclosure	1	1700	1700
Wires and Connectors	1	3000	3000
Grand Total	–	–	N50,200