

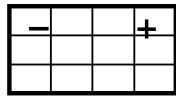
Draw Your Solar System on Paper First

The cheapest place to catch a mistake is a sheet of paper—not a live wire. Sketch your system here before you buy or build.

How to draw it

- **Go left to right:** sun → panels → charge controller → battery → then the inverter (to your AC outlets) and any DC loads.
- **Fuse every source:** put a fuse close to each point the battery or the panels can feed.
- **Mark every disconnect** — each place you can switch a section off to work on it.
- **Name each box** (controller, inverter, monitor...), and write + / – and the wire size on the lines.
- Use a **dot** where wires join; leave **no dot** where they only cross.
- When it looks right, check it against the finished diagram in Chapter 3 and your blueprint.

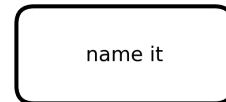
The symbols to use



solar panel



battery (+ / -)



a part = a labeled box



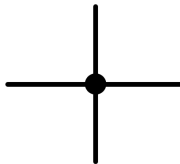
fuse



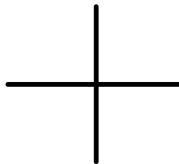
disconnect / switch



ground



wires joined (dot)



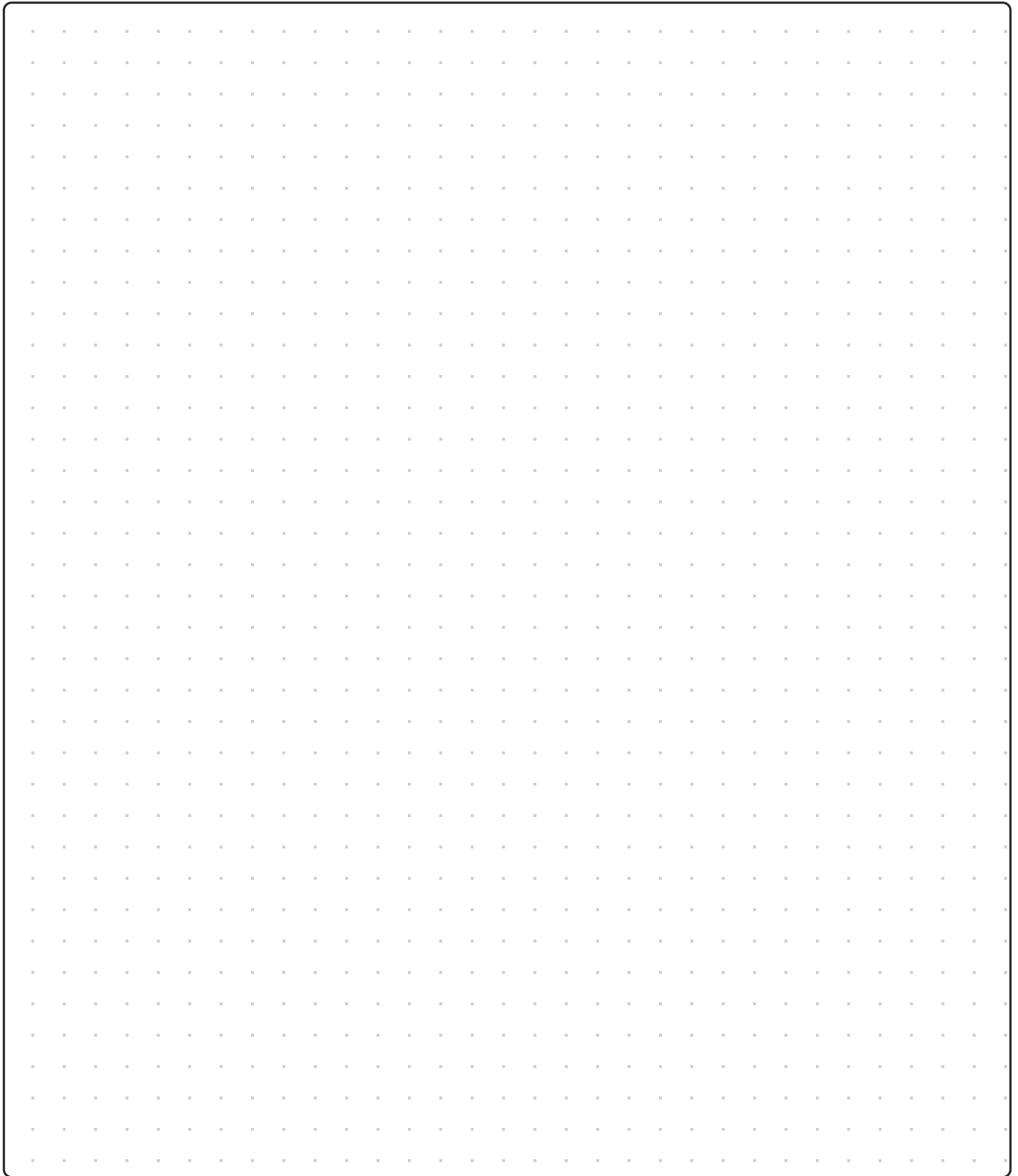
crossing, not joined



bus bar

Same symbols the diagrams in the book use.

Your system — draw it here



SUN → PANELS → CONTROLLER → BATTERY → INVERTER / DC LOADS • a fuse at every source

Free reader bonus · no purchase and no review required · from *The Beginner's Guide to DIY Off-Grid Solar Power*