

TREND LED TORCHES



The Angle Head Torch



A rubberised on/off button offers two light levels



It's easy to reach the power button

Phil Davy takes a look at two new LED torch offerings from Trend

With shorter days and winter nights here for a while longer yet, Trend has made life more bearable with their new range of LED torches. I was impressed with their Angle Twist back in the November issue, but they have a few more new products worth checking out to brighten our winter...

ANGLE HEAD TORCH

Even if we spend most of our spare hours in the workshop and manage to avoid those general maintenance jobs, there are still probably times when a head torch would be indispensable. Replacing a light bulb, rummaging around in the attic or checking the car in the gloom often

means you need both hands free. This device is particularly useful as you can detach the light from the headband and use it as a conventional torch. Overall weight is 9gm when attached to the band.

The torch itself is tiny – just 91mm in length. Its squat, aircraft aluminium body is sturdy and offers plenty of grip for cold fingers. A strong steel clip means you can store it in a pocket with little risk of it falling out. Powered by an AA battery, this is accessed by unscrewing the end cap. Built into the cap is a powerful magnet, a great feature for the workshop where the torch can be attached to a machine table or similar metal surface.

At the opposite end is a rubberised on/off button, offering two light levels. Press once for

maximum (115 lumens), and twice for the lower level (30 lumens). Keeping the button depressed for two seconds puts it into strobe mode, which could be handy in an emergency. Again, there are two options here – fast strobe and a slower flash. I have to say that light intensity is amazing for such a small torch. Equipped with a Cree White Light LED (50,000 hours lifetime), these are probably the best in the business.

The stretch fabric headband is fully adjustable, with soft grip strips lining the inside to prevent it slipping off your head. It's comfortable to wear, with no annoying bulges. The torch clips securely into a rigid plastic holder on the band and won't budge until you want to change the angle. A small lug on the holder engages with the ribbed body enabling you to twist the light up or down to direct the beam. And it's a cinch to reach the power button. Simple but very effective.



The Trend Easy Focus Pen Torch

EASY FOCUS PEN TORCH

If you just need a straightforward light to keep by the workshop door or in your pocket, this Pen Torch should fit the bill. Its slim aluminium body is 143mm long overall and partly knurled to provide grip. Weight is just 6gm. A sturdy pocket clip is fitted to the end cap, which again you unscrew for battery access.

Powered by two AAA batteries, this time there's only one light level (120 lumens), which is activated by pressing a rubber button. With a warmer light than the Head Torch, the LED here is by Lumileds. Trend describe this as Sunlight, which presumably means it's not a harsh white beam. You can focus the beam from wide angle down to a small square by sliding the front outer ring outwards. I'm not quite sure why you'd need to do this – perhaps to avoid disturbing other people at night. It's entertaining, though!

Conclusion

Both Trend torches are sturdy, well designed and made to last, with impact-resistant lenses. Offering impressive levels of light, batteries are included. Either torch would make a great last-minute stocking filler, though which one to choose? ✂



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SPECIFICATION

Angle Head Torch

Brightness: 30/115 lumens white light

Modes: Low/High/Strobe/SOS

Run time: 5.5/1.15 hours

Strobe frequency: 3Hz

Beam distance: 72m

Water resistance: IPX4

Drop resistant: 1m

Intensity: 1,300cd

Normal working temp: -20°C to 50°C

Typical price: £23.94

THE VERDICT

PROS

- Hands-free light, magnetic base (head torch); choice of light levels (head torch); excellent build quality

CONS

- Nothing obvious

RATING: 4.5 out of 5

Easy Focus Pen Torch

Brightness: 120 lumens sunlight

Run time: 2 hours

Beam distance: 56m

Water resistance: IPX4

Drop resistant: 1m

Intensity: 800cd

Normal working temp: -20°C to 50°C

Size (LxD): 135 x 14/17mm

Weight: 39g (excluding battery)

Typical price: £17.94

Web: www.trend-uk.com