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ARC AAA Premium review

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- Gear reviews and tests - Lamps and Lanterns -



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A brief look at the new improved ARC AAA light.

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ARC AAA Premium review

In case you haven't heard, the famous ARC AAA is back! The new model even has a few improvements over the old model. The bezel tapers forward for ease of pocket clip installation, and the premium model has a Nichia CS LED, which ARC advertises as 80% brighter with no reduction in runtime.



The body is aluminum with a quality HAIII coating. The knurling is grippy, but I have not found it to be abrasive enough to damage other items. The LED is recessed but not protected by a lens. A soft cotton cloth can be used to clean the lens and reflector if it gets dirty.

The CS LED's output is indeed noticeably brighter than standard LEDs. It provides a nice flood of light that I think is just about perfect for this sort of light. It's plenty bright for walking a trail, and almost too bright for reading.



The light includes a stainless steel pocket clip. It isn't fancy, but it does the job. I use the light clipped to the brim of my hat regularly.

The runtime is excellent, my tests show that it stays very bright for more than eight hours. It's advertised as waterproof to 100 feet, and it passed my two hour 3-foot-under test easily. The simple switch mechanism hasn't done anything unexpected after many thousands of on/off cycles. It's been used in temperatures from 90 degrees to minus 15 with no problems.

The ARC is my favorite single AAA light to date, and it's also my most used light by far. It's just too handy not to have

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around. The Premium can be had for just under 40 dollars, and the standard version, which does not have the brighter LED, is just under 30 dollars.

arcflashlight.com

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