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CMG Equipment (Gerber) Infinity Ultra LED flashlight

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- Gear reviews and tests - Lamps and Lanterns -



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Description :

If you're looking for a replacement for that old conventional AA flashlight then the new breed of LED lights might save you some weight and space in your pack!

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Introduction

For decades now when we packed up our rucks and headed to the field the small flashlight of choice was XXX [1] or something very much like it. They were good solid lights, of reasonable size and weight, and offered decent performance at an affordable price. That's all still true today but technology keeps on moving forward and there may be better options out there now.

While I never had a major complaint about my XXX [2], I recently stumbled onto something that might be even better suited to field use, the Infinity Ultra LED flashlight from CMG Equipment. (Note: CMG was recently bought out by Gerber Legendary Blades and can now be found under the Gerber brand name. Same lights, just a different label).

An LED flashlight gives you a couple of advantages over a regular light and can be especially beneficial for a light that is going to be dropped into a rucksack and subject to use in less than hospitable conditions. Lets take a look at the Infinity Ultra and its features, and then we'll delve a little further into those advantages.

Specifications & Features



Specifications: · Length: 3.215 · Weight: 1.04 oz. · Anodized Aircraft Aluminum construction · Powered by 1 AA battery · Waterproof to 10 feet

Features: · Peak Brightness: 25+ hours · Useable Light: 100+ hours · Bulb Life: 100,000 hours · Brightness: 30 feet

CMG Equipment (Gerber) Infinity Ultra LED flashlight

The CMG Infinity Ultra is machined out of aluminum and built very solidly. It seems to be a bit thicker walled than the MiniMag and MiniMag Solitaire that I used for comparison purposes. It is turned on and off via turning the knurled dial on the LED end of the light. I would normally call this the lens assembly but in the case of the Infinity, it really is just a knurled dial as the light doesn't use a reflector array or separate lens. The LED bulb apparently precludes the need for these features.

On the opposite side of the light is a lanyard hole, while the sides are checkered for a positive grasping surface. The provided pocket clip snaps securely into place whereas the lanyard simply threads through the aforementioned hole in the light's end.



Size-wise the Infinity Ultra is a good deal smaller than a 2 AA [\[3\]](#) and about the same length as a single AAA [\[4\]](#) although it is thicker to accommodate the Infinity's single AA battery.

Assembly



Well, you can follow along with the instructions if you need to, but this process is really simple. Screw off the lens cap of the light, drop in a AA battery and screw it back on. There, you're done. If you're real ambitious, you can attach the clip and lanyard at this time as well. The whole process only takes a few minutes at most.

Performance

Now there's nothing really wrong with using a MiniMag for your rucksack or day pack, but an LED light like the Infinity Ultra does give you some distinct advantages. First off, it gives much greater battery life than a conventional flashlight, upwards of 100 hours off of one AA as opposed to 4 to 6 hours. That greatly increases the odds that your light is going to work when you need it. Second, an LED bulb is much less susceptible to damage and unlikely to break if dropped or jostled around. Third, in the case of the Infinity, the LED comes as a very compact package that

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will save space and weight when packing for a weekend or longer trip.

The provided clip and lanyard that the CMG light comes with give you a couple of options to attach the light to your clothing or hang it around your neck while you work to keep it out of the way or in a position to provide light while freeing up your hands to work.

In regard to actual light output, I found the CMG Infinity fell somewhere in between a AAA powered XXX [5] and a 2 AA XXX [6]. The light is a somewhat softer hue to it than a regular flashlight bulb. The lights range and brightness were more than sufficient for typical campsite work, fumbling around inside the tent or reading by after dark. It also comes in handy for getting your gear out of or into the car when you arrive at your excursion destination before light or after dark!

Conclusion



While a flashlight may not be the first thing that you grab when you start setting out your field gear, it is something that comes in handy fairly often. A light that doesn't take up much space and that has the battery and bulb life to be available when you need it can be a real boon. That extra bulb and battery life will also save you money in the long run as you won't be replacing batteries or bulbs as often as with a conventional light. The CMG is really over engineered for use as a simple pocket light. While it certainly works well in that role its rugged construction, durability and water resistance also make it suitable for use as a primary camping or backpacking light. Its become my primary light now for any trip that requires me to carry all my gear on my back!

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