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The New Photon Freedom - 2X Output

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- Gear reviews and tests - Lamps and Lanterns -



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Description :

New version has twice the brightness with the same runtime, thanks to a new LED.

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The New Photon Freedom - 2X Output

The current production of the famous Photon Freedom features a new Nichia LED that delivers twice the brightness of what used to be Nichia's brightest 5mm. The surprising part is that there is *no* loss of runtime. It seems to me that every other 5mm white LED in the world is now obsolete.



Covert (top) and standard (bottom)

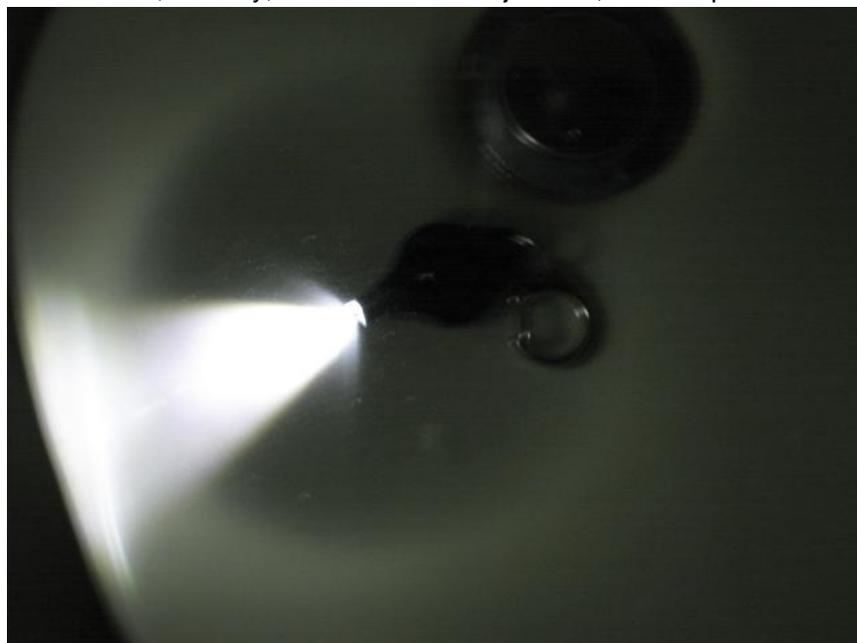
The case is glass filled polyurethane, and it is very durable. The light is also available in the "covert" version in which the LED cannot be viewed from the side due to a black housing that limits side spill. I think that this version also has merit for a light that will be stored in the pocket along with change or other objects, as it will protect the LED from being scratched.



The main advantage of this light is also its main disadvantage: It uses two small 2016 coin cells. They're hard to find, but they make a useful light at this size small a reality. Using a screwdriver to remove the battery cover allows the batteries to be changed. Internal contacts are gold plated for low resistance and corrosion protection. The beam of this new LED, to my eye, also seems smoother and a little wider. Operation is identical to all other Freedoms. Pressing and releasing the "button" will cause the light to come on at full brightness. While the light is off, holding the button will cause the light to come on at the lowest brightness setting and increase in brightness until it reaches full brightness. Continuing to hold the button will cause the light to cycle through slow flash mode, medium flash mode, fast flash mode, and SOS mode. While the light is on, holding the button will cause the light to fade down to the lowest brightness and stay at that level. Releasing the button at any brightness level or while on any of the modes will cause the light to stay at that mode.



Left to right: New Photon, New Photon Covert, and Old Photon. I submerged my Photon in about 6 inches or water for a few minutes and found no water inside the case. It should survive most outdoors conditions just fine, but if water does get inside, just disassemble it, let it dry, and it should work just fine, with the possible exception of the batteries.



The Freedom is so light and unobtrusive; I see no reason why anyone should ever be without one. The 'old' Freedom was almost undisputedly the King of the Micro-lights. The new one is a great improvement, and with only a dollar or two increases in price, they stay very affordable. David Allen and the fine folks at LRI have created a winner-Pick one (Or two!) up from www.photonlight.com.