

TREND ANGLE TWIST TORCH

Phil Davy says that if you like gadgets, you'll love this new LED torch from Trend, which is both sturdy and rechargeable

If you like gadgets, you'll love this new LED torch from Trend. With a body made from aircraft grade aluminium (which means it's extremely durable), this is a serious, top quality flashlight. With a slinky, black anodised finish, the Angle Twist is certainly tactile. The lower half of its cylindrical body is knurled, as is the area around the upper lens, while the end cap is faceted for easy grip. Measuring 160mm overall, the torch fits in the hand nicely and is relatively slim while still feeling substantial. Weight is 208gm with battery fitted and a strong steel pocket clip is fitted midway down.

Power levels

The Angle Twist uses a high capacity (2,600mAh), 3.6V Li-ion 18650 battery, physically larger than more common AA cells. A replacement, should you ever need one, will set you back about a fiver. Charging is via a supplied USB cable, so you can either use a mains adaptor or plug into a suitable device, such as a laptop. The Micro USB plug is a tight fit into the port on the torch, revealed by lifting a rubberised flexible flap. I'm not sure how long this flap will last – it seals out dust and moisture but seems a bit flimsy. A full charge takes anything from six to eight hours. Around the other side is the on/off button,



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The Micro USB plug is a tight fit into the port on the torch, revealed by lifting a rubberised flexible flap

again a soft-grip rubber affair. This glows nicely when activated and switches to red when battery capacity drops below about 3.3V, when it starts to flash. You'll find there's still plenty of power left, though. Red is also displayed during charging.

A short push of the on/off button creates a low light level (90 lumens), which is actually pretty bright. Depress a second time for the higher level (300 lumens). I tried checking duration of the white light at either setting but lost track. Trend claim run times of 12 hours at the low setting and three hours at maximum brightness. Beam distance is an impressive 80 metres.

Unlike most torches the Angle Twist has a trick up its sleeve. Pressing the button for a couple of seconds bypasses the main beam and activates an ultra violet light. Designed in particular for detecting security markings from a UV pen or similar, this would be great at a party! All clever stuff and the UV wavelength is 395nm, in case you were wondering.

Magnetic twist

So why the Angle Twist moniker? Simply, you can swivel the head of the torch to any position

between 0 and 90°. This may seem an unnecessary feature until you start using it. In a gloomy workshop, stand the torch on the bench top or shelf and angle the beam to where it's needed for close-up work. Or point it up towards the ceiling for that essential lighting maintenance or emergency work. The end cap is magnetised, so you can plonk the torch on a suitable metal surface and it won't budge easily. Great for working on machinery with cast-iron beds when sharpening or adjusting cutters or whatever, when decent light is crucial.

A tough fabric storage pouch is provided, with hook-and-loop closure and a ring for securing on a belt. With the Angle Twist swivelled to 90° and stashed in this pouch, you could even use the torch hands-free for tasks at waist level.

Conclusion

On the downside, you may find the Micro USB plug tricky to insert when recharging. Apart from that, this is a fantastic, sturdy torch. Not cheap, but if you appreciate quality engineering with innovative features thrown in, you should take a closer look for those dark nights ahead... ✂



Around the other side is the on/off button, again a soft-grip rubber affair



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Point the torch up towards the ceiling for that essential lighting maintenance or emergency work



The end cap is magnetised, so you can plonk the torch on a suitable metal surface...



... great for working on machinery with cast-iron beds when sharpening or adjusting cutters



The torch is supplied in a tough fabric storage pouch, featuring a ring for securing on a belt

SPECIFICATION

Brightness: 90/300 lumens white light
Modes: low/high/UV
Run time: 12 hours (low); 3 hours (high)
Beam distance: 80m
Water resistance: IPX4
Drop resistant: 1m
Intensity: 1,600cd
UV wavelength: 395nm
Twist head design: 90°
Normal working temp: -20°C to 50°C

Typical price: £41.94

Web: www.trend-uk.com

THE VERDICT

PROS

- Ultra violet function; two white light levels; magnetic base; USB charging

CONS

- Micro USB plug rather fiddly

RATING: 4.5 out of 5