

## **RANT ON: DU-LITES, "OP"-LITES, BATTERIES AN CHARGERS**

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Let me preface my remarks by saying that most of you are pretty smart and careful when it comes to taking care of your tools. With 700+ Du-Lites being used everyday in the field, I've only had 3 or 4 warranty returns, and all but one of those were simple fixes or minor adjustments. Only one light had to be returned to the maker for more extensive repairs and even that one was returned in perfect working order.

That said, let me tell you about a customer service issue that I deal with from time to time:

I recently told somebody to return a MK-V for warranty service because it stopped working. I asked all the usual technical and customer support questions before I told them to return it.

It arrived yesterday. The problem (and the solution) was immediately obvious. Crappy batteries had leaked and messed up the contacts on the switch and head. After a good cleaning, the MK-V works like new.

Most Alkaline and lithium batteries used today are made overseas. Some of these foreign makers do a good job and adhere to QC and some don't.

Rechargeables, in addition to the leak problem above, also require extra care and caution during use and the charging process. ALWAYS observe correct polarity when loading the cell in the light or charger.

Better quality batteries are less likely to heat up or vent during the charge cycle and also less likely to leak or distort the case when shorted or rapidly discharged.

Damage caused by using bargain, sub-quality batteries is not covered by my warranty.

The RECOMMENDED cells and batteries to use are:

DURACELL, ENERGIZER, TOSHIBA, PANOSONIC and BATTERY STATION brand disposable CR123A lithiums or Alkalines AAA (for the MK-IA). Other cells may damage your light, or worse, be dangerous!

ONLY BATTERY STATION PROTECTED rechargeable RCR123 cells are recommended for use in any DU-LITE. If it says something else on the ones you are using, STOP using and replace them immediately if you'd like to avoid the chastizing lecture and obligatory repair invoice.

I really don't care what batteries you use in anybody else's light source (which probably means another sale for me when that light fails), but YOU SHOULD care!

You don't have to BUY the recommended batteries and rechargeable cells from me, but why not buy them from the guy who's telling you that the other, "BAD" cells can destroy your light, your investment and also cost you a bundle? No matter who you buy them from, you do have to USE them in a DU-LITE to be covered by MY warranty.

Hints on recharging 3-volt high-capacity Lithium cells:

1. Avoid charging cells that are in dissimilar discharge states at the same time. This means that if you have two cells, one totally depleted and one only half depleted, don't charge them at the same time in a two-place charger. Doing so has resulted in small hot explosions or fire.

Why take the risk of burning down your house? Better to charge the cells separately or use the half-depleted cell until it is depleted and THEN charge them at the same time. REMOVE the cells after charging and UNPLUG the charger! It's also a good idea to avoid charging for long periods when you're not there. Control circuits have failed in chargers before. Recalls abound. Be safe not sorry!

2. Store rechargeable cells safely. These are high discharge capacity storage devices and can cause a fire or small explosion if they short out while rattling around in your tool case or in your pocket. Many flashlight freaks have tested this theory and the results can be disastrous when out of control.

3. Clean battery contacts on your light frequently with a little alcohol and a Q-tip.

4. It's also a good idea to lubricate the battery contacts at both ends as well as the battery compartment o-ring with silicon grease from time to time.

5. If your light isn't going to be used for a long period of time, use common sense and remove the cell(s) or batteries and store them safely.

6. Don't let young children mess with your light source and NEVER let them play with the batteries/cells. Somebody who owns one of the "OTHER-LITE"s found out the hard way that this is a really bad idea! As a general rule, electronic devices should NOT BE STORED IN A FISH TANK!

7. I STRONGLY suggest that if you own a DU-LITE or anybody else's portable light, that you read the accompanying instructions and maybe even copy this post and save it for future use.

Your \$\$\$\$\$\$ are what's at stake if you screw up!

PS: if you are not sure which model DU-LITE you own or you're not sure of the power requirements or of the cells or batteries that are being used, the best thing is to e-mail me and attach a photo of the light, battery, cells and charger (if any). I can tell you which model light source you have and also if the cells are the GOOD ones... or the BAD ones!

You can e-mail me at: [SERVICE@advancedsafe.com](mailto:SERVICE@advancedsafe.com)

Have a nice day!

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