



## Maglite torch review

*Transcript 034*

*October 2007*

Linda: Hi I'm Linda.

Craig: And I'm Craig.

Linda: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast, episode 34. This week coming to you from Vienna, in Austria.

Craig: Where we've just bought a couple of new iPod nanos.

Linda: Yay.

Craig: They're fantastic.

Linda: They're so great. Well, it's the second - well, it's a Saturday, isn't it? It's the second Saturday of the month, and this week we're doing a review on the Maglite torch.

Craig: A small torch is one of those things that you could probably leave behind - especially if you were trying to shave off a bit of weight. It's something that you seldom use ... but then again when you need it, you really need it.

Linda: Craig says a bit of weight? But he seems to forget that when we left New Zealand we took two torches. One, the small torch that we're going to be talking about today, and the second one, that Craig insisted we bring with us, was a huge Maglite that took 4 D-sized batteries and that the police use as a baton. A baton.

Craig: Thanks for sharing. We've certainly learnt a lot since then. The secret of packing light is to avoid taking things for every and any eventuality - like beating people. With a torch.

Linda: Highly useful.

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Craig: It made sense at the time.

Linda: It didn't.

Craig: Think about what you WILL use, not what you MIGHT use.

Linda: And, unless you're on the road for a long time, a torch is probably something you will only might use, not what you definitely will use.

Craig: Here are some occasions it will come in handy. Late nights or early mornings in a dorm room.

Linda: Exploring caves.

Craig: Looking for lost things in weird places -- like in a dimly lit internet cafe.

Linda: Going outside to the loo.

Craig: Or going anywhere in countries with little electricity.

Linda: During a power cut or an earthquake.

Craig: Being able to read when everyone else has gone to sleep.

Linda: Yes. Getting your key into a lock late at night - which might be difficult for more than one reason!

Craig: Yeah it might. And, of course, if you're hiking, you're living on a boat or in a car it'll be invaluable.

Linda: Yeah, we definitely found it useful when we were hiking. If you're not likely to be outside or in places with limited electricity then you probably won't miss a torch at all, but, in case you're packing for the long term our recommendation is a Maglite mini that takes 2 AA batteries.

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Craig: It's not the cheapest option at around 12 US dollars. And it's not the lightest either, being made from aluminium. So why on earth would we recommend it?

Linda: First, it's strong. That aluminium casing makes it virtually unbreakable - unlike quite a lot of the stuff that's been in our bags.

Craig: Two ipods, two cell phones and countless other gadgets I think.

Linda: All sorts of chargers and various other things.

Craig: But this torch has got rubber O-rings that give some amount of water resistance and good shock resistance as well.

Linda: The second reason we recommend it is its high-quality build - I've never spoken to anyone who's had one break down, even after years of use.

Craig: Thirdly, it's easy to replace parts. Maglite's a worldwide brand and they mainly use industry standard replacement parts. Obviously finding AA batteries isn't going to be a problem and replacement bulbs can be found almost anywhere, in any camping, outdoor or hardware shop. Even supermarkets.

Linda: Yeah, when we were on the West Highland Way a while ago, our bulb burnt out, and we managed to find one within a few days.

Craig: Yes. Although we didn't know that there was a spare bulb in the base of the torch. I walked into the shop and we found the right one for the torch. And while I was digging some money out the bottom of my backpack, the woman behind the counter said "you know, there's a spare one, just in here at the cap. You knew that, right?"

Linda: And we were like - "d'oh!" A Homer moment.

Craig: I almost screamed in frustration. We'd been three nights without light.

Linda: It was very difficult. Well, when thinking about this torch, our initial complaints were about price and weight, but let's look at that a bit more closely. 12 US

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dollars isn't really all that much, especially for a torch that's built at military quality. It's professional gear at amateur prices.

**Craig:** There is one more issue to look at though. And that's the bulbs. We've had no problems with them. A bulb lasts us 12-18 months.

**Linda:** Yeah, we only had one, because we didn't know about it being at the bottom of the torch. And I think we bought it what, two, three years ago?

**Craig:** Yeah, at least. Anyway, some people have complained about the light turning orange or frequent burn outs, but - like we said - we've had no problems.

**Linda:** This bulb problem is offset by two things: first, the torch comes with a spare bulb - and we're going to release a video on the blog this weekend that shows where it is - for those people who didn't know there was one, like us. And we'll also show you how to replace it. The other thing that offsets the bulb problem is the release of the new mini Maglites with LED bulbs.

**Craig:** LEDs are a different type of bulb. They use less power, they last longer and have a brighter light than traditional bulbs.

**Linda:** They're about double the price of a regular Maglite, but you won't be having any problems with quality or replacement parts.

**Craig:** We're recommending the AA-battery torch over the AAA-battery torch for a few reasons. First, we find that AAA batteries, sorry, the AAA torches, are too small and too fiddly. Sure, it's lighter, it's smaller, but I personally don't like the feel of the torch so much.

**Linda:** Secondly, it seems easier to find AA batteries than AAA. This isn't going to be a problem in most countries, where there are heaps of everything, but - if there's only one battery to be found, it's probably going to be an AA battery.

**Craig:** Yeah, I think so. Don't forget to check the feed again in a little while and we'll have that video up. If you subscribe in iTunes it'll come straight down to your computer or mp3 player. Can I remind you that if you want to support us, or any

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other websites that you like, then clicking on their ads is a great way to do that. If you are shopping online and looking to buy a torch, come by this episode and click on the Amazon link. It doesn't cost you any extra, and it'll help us cover our costs for the year.

Linda: Well, thanks for listening, thanks for all your comments and, until next week, travel well.

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