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ASP XT DH HANDHELD LIGHT

By Trampas Swanson

Perhaps my favorite light currently on the market for multiple reasons, is the ASP XT DF Light. We all know one of the cardinal rules of firearms safety is "Know your target and what lies beyond it". THAT DOES NOT CHANGE IN THE DARK! The tactical light industry is full of great gun-mounted lights, but in doing so, often overlooks the liability of waving the muzzle of your firearm around in search of possible targets. For those who understand that searching an area not immediately under fire or posing a threat of bodily injury is best served with a handheld light with or without a firearm, the XT DF light is a great option.

Manufactured by Armament Systems & Procedures—better known as ASP, the company that makes the cool handcuffs and expandable batons—these lights offer a plethora of advantages over your standard small SureFire or Streamlight. The DF stands for Dual Fuel, which means you can charge the included 18650 battery (using the supplied adapters or any micro USB cord) in your truck, patrol vehicle, home or office, or simply pop in two fresh CR123A disposable batteries and go.

The extremely bright Cree XPG2 LED bulb produces 600 lumens of light in high mode, easily lighting up any close quarters area you may need to search, with a run time of up to 3 hrs. and 45 mins. The light also allows you to program your choice of four secondary light settings, to dial in how much light you need, while not overdoing it and ruining your natural low light vision. Starting from the full 600 lumen setting, you can "double tap" to activate the secondary mode at 150 lumens, 60 lumens, 15 lumens, or a very distracting high output Strobe feature. The easy-to-use, multifunction tail cap allows you to quickly switch between momentary

and constant on, and even choose an "OFF" position to lock out any chance of accidental illumination during a mission.

The all too familiar texture of the grip is like that of the company's famous collapsible batons, which I have carried personally and professionally for going on twenty years now. Even when completely wet, this texture offers a sure grip on the body of the light to prevent dropping it. The weather-resistant light is rated to over 6 feet of impact resistance on hard surfaces. Twice already, I have had this unit become accidentally submerged during training. First by getting knocked off a shooting table into a puddle of water in the dark, and the second time by being left on a range all night in the rain. Both times, just by simply shaking the light dry before putting it away, the XT DF sustained no damage and worked perfectly.

The handy reversible pocket clip gives additional leverage in gripping it, as well as a great way to secure it either bezel up or down when you need your hands free to transition to a weapon. For carry on my gear, I prefer ASP's optional hands-free rotating Tactical Light Case. The overall, compact 6.25" length, 1.4" diameter of the XT DF, combined with its easy to operate tail cap allow it to be easily used in conjunction with a handgun employing the "cigar style" technique, often referred to as the "Surefire" technique as well.

The XT DF has an MSRP range of \$128 (without charging kit) to \$170 (including the kit), but can easily be found for a bit cheaper online, and can be delivered as soon as the next day, ready for duty. After four months of nonstop usage, I highly recommend getting not just one of these lights, but instead, get one for each of your vehicles, your "go bag" and emergency rally point in your home. To find out more about the Dual Fuel XT light and other great products from ASP, visit their website at www.asp-usa.com.

GEAR ON TEST