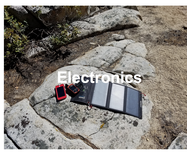
HIKERBETA

BETA, FOR HIKERS.

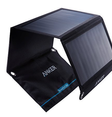
Here is a place where I keep my hiking notes and other stuff I want to share with friends. The hiking community is the greatest on earth, so they deserve a place where I can post my thoughts and feedback. Thanks for visiting!



Electronics

OCTOBER 31, 2017

Solar Panel



$60.99 $69.99

BUY ON AMAZON

Anker 21W PowerPort Solar

Post full report ->

This solar panel is a beast. Great for two to three people. It was able to fully charge everyone's electronics directly off the solar panel in a couple hours. If you're breaking very hot, I recommend using some weight with the **TOP version**.

$60.99 $79.99

BUY ON AMAZON

I only used the 21W solar panel through the 960-mile Jersey Perk's section when there weren't any city not to follow. In situations where I was staying nearby or my electronics recharged, I wanted the ability to charge my devices from a source that wouldn't run out (e.g. the sun).

When I think of a hard, I'd recommend only carrying a charged battery pack. Solar panels are usually inconvenient, heavy, and bulky in comparison.

Battery Pack

$25.99 $49.99

BUY ON AMAZON

Anker PowerCore 10,000

The best solution for if I'm carrying a 2-4lb or weight-ultra-sensitive battery packs. Provides enough power to charge your mobile/tablet/bluetooth headset for several days. It can charge my Samsung Galaxy S7 phone and my Garmin InReach in between recupoints.

5.6 ounces (including a USB-to-micro USB charging cord)

Post full report ->

This 10,000 mAh charger's pit my arsenal for the entire trail. I learned that the capacity of the battery pack could recharge my inReach, Samsung S7 phone, Bluetooth headset (for the Garmin iPod Shuffle for about four days without restocking (yes, I'd needed to conserve power). I could stretch out off of three restocks for about six days.

Keep in mind, however, that outlessly thinking about conserving power for the months gets annoying. I'd rather have a little more weight and not worry about it. I'd recommend this for people who rule of thee knows that, big phone getting lost in a power, realizing that the cell devices that magically worked by camera or for the last two hours, killing my battery. Over five months, it's guaranteed to happen a few times.

More power is better. Enter, the Anker Powercore 20,000 mAh battery:

$39.99 $79.99

BUY ON AMAZON

I added the 20,000 mAh battery to my pack to simply extra the day-to-day worries with power consumption.

Anker Powercore 20,000 mAh battery post-trail report ->

Although roughly twice as heavy as the 10,000 mAh battery or 5.6 ounces, the battery worked its way into being a necessary in my lightweight setup. Bonus because I didn't have to worry about power. If I wanted to listen to podcasts all day, I could. Plug some more while I wrap up my morning coffee? Why not? Plug a quick ignition of Coke, sitting a quarter of my battery in the ecosystem? No big deal.

I found that relief off stress to be perfect for me. I wasn't out there to stress about whether or not I could post-power to write in my journal that night. Hell, I wasn't on the PCT to stress... about anything.

The 20,000 mAh battery held charge for weeks in rapid days of unlimited electronics use. With every town, it would last for two weeks. I was even able to stay the whole hiking and recharge the inReach without a single couple recipeptes. The bigger battery's health slowly since it inRRRR high quality stuff from Anker.

Bottom line: If you only want to buy ONE battery for the entire trail, the 20,000 mAh battery will fit every scenario, where the 10,000 mAh battery won't quite cut it on some longer stretches.

Note: There are Anker Powercore if models such 30,000 and 20,000 mAHs that charge electronics a lot quicker, but that faster charge results in more electrical losses, therefore fewer actual charges. They also weigh a lot more. Ya stick with the original Powercore models for now.

GPS/SOS Electronics

Garmin InReach Explorer+

$449.99

BUY ON AMAZON

I actually use the previous version of the inReach before they were bought by Garmin. The newer version pictured always integrates maps into the device itself, which is much easier. A necessary piece of electronics in the backcountry for peace of mind, communication, weather reports, and navigation. The Garmin Inreach Explorer+ is the best, hands down, definitely expensive to both initially purchase and then pay for the monthly subscription charges.

8 ounces

Here's the model I currently use:

Garmin inReach Explorer Two Way Satellite Communicator

Post full report ->

The inReach should be high on the list for anybody who wants to stay safe, especially in the wilds or on a long-distance hike. Hiking the PCT, I used the inReach to keep in touch with my family and come to basically, but not perfect. Sometimes messages will take days to go through, but 99% of the time the big between sending and receiving were about five minutes. It's easy to set up, easy to use, and it's pretty durable. I dropped it a few times and it still worked like a champ. The only iPhone app could be cheaper, but the hook-up was not well worth it in my opinion. Especially in the Sierra is Wag...

Phone

$35.00

BUY ON AMAZON

Samsung Galaxy S7

The S7 has good battery life for an airplane mode, is water resistant, and is an endless source of information. I'll mainly be using Guthook's PCT and Wayfarer apps to stay informed on the trail. I'll also be using Instrumap, which pairs well with inReach Garmin cards and is not Homepage and Instagram.

6.3 ounces

Post full report ->

This was age of water-resistant smartphones is making this inRer's from much easier. The phone saved the entire length of the trail without an encounter, waterproof case (Ziploc brand) or even dropped it crawls, snow, mud, sand, and in hard surfaces with almost no noticeable marks to show for it. Bluetooth headset, Garmin inReach, and Bluetooth speaker connected to the phone in series, which meant I'd on Play the whole 10 weighed-less, unscented-free power, and now stored to use one handed.

Smartphones are a bunch that hold subject in the outdoor scene, but you'd be hard pressed to show me a more versatile use of its survivor in your pocket.

The only downfall is that the S7 may be the most power-hungry phone of electronics. Two days of normal use was usually all I could get out of a battery.

Power Cube Wall Charger

$14.99 $22.00

BUY ON AMAZON

RAVPower Power Cube

This cube has two ports, one of which supports Qualcomm Quick Charge 2.0/3.0 for my Samsung S7 phone. These chargers are important gear for operating or charging three-only-resupply stays in town.

3.8 ounces

Post full report ->

Old classic which it seated by charge my phone, inReach, and battery pack had enough to get back on the trail. Rugged and durable. Would highly recommend RAVPower. Very made great stuff.

Headlamp

Black Diamond Storm

Super bright, but admittedly outdated and heavier gear than what I could have.

3.9 ounces

Post full report ->

This headlamp did well enough, but I ended up carrying something rechargeable and lighter. I ended up landing on the Black Diamond Iota.

Black Diamond Iota

$35.95

BUY ON AMAZON

Post full report ->

This is an outdoors-ultra headlamp. 3.9 ounces, makes it almost invisible. Rechargeable (via micro charging backup batteries), bright, and tough. I carried this headlamp through the Sierra all the way to the end. Always ready, even in snow 90° mornings. Never had a problem with the cold affecting the battery life either.

Bottom line: You won't find a lighter option for a rechargeable, bright headlamp But if you do, buy one for me.

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1 Yeah Dear 0

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