

Re: How quickly should rechargables drain?

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- *From:* Seán O'Leathlóbhair <[jwlawler@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:jwlawler@xxxxxxxxx)>
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On 9 May, 13:26, ASAAR <[cau...@xxxxxx](mailto:cau...@xxxxxx)> wrote:

On 9 May 2007 04:41:08 -0700, Seán O'Leathlóbhair wrote:

But I have noticed that NiMH do seem to self-discharge quite quickly when not in use. In this way they are worse than the older NiCd. So, I top them up before an important shoot and I carry some alkaline batteries in my kit bag for emergency use. If you are a dedicated rechargeable user you could try NiCd as a backup. Heavier, less capacity, but they don't seem to self-discharge so fast. Or look for suitable Li-ion batteries but they may be expensive.

You won't find suitable Li-ion AA batteries, as their voltage is more than double that of NiCd, NiMH, alkaline or lithium AA batteries. NiCd isn't a good backup solution since it also has a fairly high self discharge rate. But there is a good alternative, and it retains its capacity longer than even Li-ion batteries. Several manufacturers now make NiMH batteries that have extremely low self discharge rates. A minor drawback is that their capacities are less than standard NiMH batteries (2000 and 2100 mAh for AA cells) but this is much higher than any NiCd you can find. If you charge them and then store them unused, they'll retain most of their capacity a year later. Unfortunately, they don't have standard names. Sanyo calls them Eneloop batteries. RayOVac calls them Hybrid batteries. Radio Shack sells their overpriced version and doesn't really identify them. Uniross may have their own version, but that's not a brand readily found in the USA. These batteries can be identified though, because unlike traditional NiCd and NiMH batteries which have to be charged before using them the first time, these new types are precharged and can be removed from their package and used immediately.

Thanks.

I guess that explains why general purpose Li-ion batteries don't exist. What is their voltage? If it is about 3V then some devices

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could accept them paired with dummies. Probably dangerous since some people would get it wrong, put two real ones in and blow up their devices.

I hadn't heard of the slow self-discharge NiMH, I will look out for some. NiCd discharge much quicker than alkaline but I find them better than regular NiMH. Certainly not a good back-up though. If you can't find the NiMH that you mention, use alkaline.

Nothing special about Uniross, they just happen to be the last brand that I bought.

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Seán O'Leathlóbhair

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