



Stanley maxlife mini tripod flashlight manual

Tripod flashlight, led, aa, black I was in an unusual part of Walmart for me the other day, and ran across a very interesting light, the Stanley MaxLife 369 Tripod. You can see it's specs here It is a clever variant on the 369 Flashlight reviewed here: - the tubes that the batteries go in are hinged to allow them to work as legs of a tripod and the head is apparently hinged more to permit pointing it in other directions. You can use it like a regular flashlight or as a self-standing light. I didn't get it right then, but I was sorely tempted to put one in my car for changing tires- it's sized like a D-cell light, so not as handy as the Dorcy AAA or River Rock headlamop I was planning to put beside the Cyclops. We'll see if I can resist it the next trip to Walmart. Has anyone else tried one of them? It claims up to 200 hours on 1 LED and 9 batteries, and I forget how little time on only 3 batteries and all 6 lights. I was just looking at both the small and large version today at Home Depot. I was with the better half, so none of them ended up in the cart Kinda handy lookin. I saw it at Kmart and shrugged when I saw the price tag. It seemed like a waste of a tripod for the output of a few meager 5mm LEDs, With 9AAs they could be worth it. Ya its a little pricey. The mini one could be handy in the tool box. Hmm. How much did Kmart want for it? Walmart wanted \$22.46 or something similar - not a bad price, I thought. Very flexible light, with the three light levels and the clever tripod built in. Of course, it'd take a lot of cheap AA batteries to fill the thing. I don't recall how much Kmart wanted..... perhaps \$25. You only need 3 batteries to use it I think.. LEDmuseum.org did a review on one without the tripod awhile back I think. I like the idea of an LED worklight but so far most are woefully underpowered with just a few 5mm LEDs or overpriced using 30 white LEDs at \$60 or so. They have been at my Walmart for a month... I started to pick one up when I first saw them, but I thought I'd see what CPF thought of themn first... Did a search then, but - While the concept is neat, the execution IMHO leaves much to be desired. Here is what I found: With one leg filled (3AAs) Lux readings @ 1 meter: 1 LED no hits.... Well, I decided to pick one up today, and then when I got home, fond not only this thread but another.... Well, anyway, here is my mini-review: ---26 LUX 3 LED : 61 LUX 6 LED : 121 LUX All three legs filled: (9As) 1 LED : 26 LUX 3 LED : 65 LUX 6 LED : 135 LUX So, contrary to the blurb on the package, it is a little brighter with all the batteries with 3 & 6 LEDS, the 1 LED is the same. Throw? One LED / about 10-12 ft of useful brightness... Enough to get around the house in a blackout, or walk slowly through the woods. Three LEDs not much more throw, a little more brightness though. With all 6 LEDS running maybe 30 ft of useful throw. I don't like it myself, but other people may. Here are some beamshots: The light is one meter from a 20X30 inch white foam board with the dot grid on 2 mining maybe 30 ft of useful throw. I don't like it myself, but other people may. Here are some beamshots: The light is one meter from a 20X30 inch white foam board with the dot grid on 2 mining maybe 30 ft of useful throw. I don't like it myself, but other people may. inch squares, and the words RED GREEN BLUE written in those colors with a Sharpie felt pen of the appropriate color. The camera is about 1.5 meters from the target, with F stop 2.8 and exposure length 1/60th second for each shot. The images should be pretty close to reality, depending on your monitor settings. All done with a full 9 fresh AA alkaline cells operating. The first shot is with one LED on: The next is with three LEDs operating: And this one is with all 6 LEDS on: And this one, the light is about one foot away from the target to show the kind of weird beam pattern, with six LEDs operating: As you can see there are a lot of artifacts that may or may not be distracting to you. As a worklight, ... say for wrenching on your car, the the 3 LED setting is barely, barely adequate for non-detail work. 6 LEDS almost adequate, but leaves much to be desired. My Petzl Myo 5 headlamp with the 5 LED beam is better. It isn't a positive mechanical latch that holds the tripod legs in when you are using it as a handheld. Just a couple of small magnets,,, and they don't hold very securely. the "open" button just slides the little rod that the magnets are on out away from the little steel buttons on the tripod legs. All in all, that setup is a waste of materials and manufacturing steps IMO. Coulda just used solid mounted magnets if that is the way they wanted to go... I suppose a mechanical latch would have either had to been more bulky or would have been to delicate for extensive use. so I don't know which would be preferable in the long run. In the hand, it feels like holding a M*G 3D, except a little softer grip due to the rubber center. Length is about an inch shorter then the 3D, so, about halfway between the 3D and the 2 D. The lens/optical assembly is held on with a rubber? bezel and three small TORX screws. I think a #4... This may be important, as this light is just begging for a modification. I'm not sure what LEDs are in it, but the new 18,000 MCD Nichias should be one way to improve it.... I just opened up the head... Man, there is a lot of electronics in there... Considering the battery configuration, I don't see the point. Ten transistors two ICs and assorted capacitors and resistors. wow. I took some photos of the electronics. but I have to crop them down a bit before posting... Probably be able to post them in a little while. OK, Here are the electronics shots. Click for larger view C larger view I can't figure out what all these electronics are for. On that last photo of the reflector assembly, there are 2 transistors per side, for a total of 6 there (plus 4 more on the other board). Seems like with this battery configuration, they would just go for direct drive with a current dropping resistor rather than all this stuff. Even assuming that the switch is not a mechanical four way but an electronic one, why would you need ten transistors , two ICs and assorted caps and resistors??? Ok, there is a low battery indicator (3mm red LED) but even that shouldn't require all this. Oh well, I'll leave it to you guys that understand circuits better than I to figure this one out. I got one for work lighter in weight than a 2d maglite, brighter up close within 20 ft - but after that the light really drops off. Would be an interesting light if someone figures out how to change the leds out - could probably fit a bunch of 1 watt luxeons in there. I ripped it apart a little further and did some experimentation. If you are interested in some of the deeper technical stuff, and more photos of the 'guts' LOOK HERE I like the design of the Tripod; difficult aiming most flashlights where you want them. Love the long run time. The brightness did not impress me. I have a bunch of the 26,000 mcd 5mm leds and after reading here that this light could be opened I went ahead and replaced all 6. It is now at least twice as bright and much more usable. Some notes on how to upgrade it. The top opens easily with the correct bit. The reflector has two plastic tabs inserted into a board. Most of them have polarity markings on the component side of the board and the others can be inferred as all connect to a common trace. Warning! Remove all the batteries before working on the board. I managed to blow one of those transistors. The on/off switch isn't a hard off so it will NOT protect you. Apparently others have had the same problem. I managed to scrounge another transister from my junk box and got it working again. I wish I had two of them so I could remove the lense and reflector on one and do a side by side comparison. I don't believe they do much good with this type of LED. I also agree with others that with 9xAA batteries this could have had more, and therefor brighter, LEDs. I got one of these for Christmas (it was on my list), and was disappointed in the output of the light. I knew it could be modded, so I took all the guts out, and replaced them with a uFlex board from TaskLED (georges80), and an older Q3J 1W Luxeon. I used an SO17XA reflector, and made the heatsink out of a piece of 1/8" aluminum plate I had. I could have simply wired 3 Lux I's in parallel, but I wanted to preserve the long runtime aspect of this light. I even re-used the existing pushbutton switch, so it keeps the watertightness of the original configuration. Dimming, long runtime, good beam - much improved over the original, I think... and it still looks interesting... I took the guts of the Costco headlamp (with a K2 LED) and upgraded my weak Stanley Tripod light with them. You don't get the best flashlight but I like the tripod feature and the fact that it holds 9 batteries. I took the guts of the Costco headlamp (with a K2 LED) and upgraded my weak Stanley Tripod light with them. You don't get the best flashlight but I like the tripod feature and the fact that it holds 9 batteries. Beauty mod! It's a torch that's just crying out to be modified. With mine I replaced the first LED with a brighter one, and now there's no change in brightness between the first two settings - it might even get a tad dimmer when it changes from the bright single to the three dim LEDs. What I really want to do is put in three Crees and optics. There's very nicely enough room for them, but what to do about heat when I turn it on high? I have one of these and its not very durable if you use it as a work light. I dropped it od a 6 foot ladder and it did not survive the drop test. One leg is permently detached. The only good thing is that it can still be powered by the other two. Other than that it is a cool light more lite projects. My 2 Cents What I really want to do is put in three Crees and optics. There's very nicely enough room for them, but what to do about heat when I turn it on high? You're right, there is plenty of room, I took out the stock LED board and installed the headlamp's driver electronics inside the housing. The Costco headlight is a luxeon LED with a small heatsink so it should be OK temp wise for a while. I saw these lights at one of our local Costco stores marked down to \$15. I didn't see it mentioned in the thread (maybe I skipped over it?). I've not evaluated the light, therefore don't know if it's a good deal or not (therefore don't know if it thread, eh? :thinking: I just did a motor swap in my Friend's Sentra.... To say the least THIS SUCKS!!!!! ok... where to start... this thing is too dark to be used swapping motors... the legs won't close anymore... also up close there is no sidespill so it's a pain to use as a work light... honestly i'd rather have bought a cheap AA powered flourescent light... we also had 2 dual strip PC flourescent droplights... much better I have one of these in Wal-Mart and other places seems pretty high for what you get. I like it, but not for anything outdoors or something requiring a good deal of light. Page 2 I saw these lights at one of our local Costco stores marked down to \$15. We had a local auto parts chain selling them off for NZ\$15, which is just US\$10.50. It's probably a good deal, but it just doesn't produce enough light to be used very often. That's really sad because it's a nifty design, and so three Crees will get into mine one day (hopefully sooner than later). The three diodes on the tripod legs/batteries are an easy way to prevent charging of the other legs but dropping 0.6V could be a problem for running the Crees at high current unless I use a boost power supply, which I don't want to do. Use germanium diodes instead, at 0.2V drop? Will Schottky diodes at perhaps 0.15V handle enough current? the latch mechanism (for good or bad) is a magnet. Did your magnet break and/or fall off? The latch mechanism (for good or bad) is a magnet. Did your magnet break and/or fall off? there's a plastic piece where the three legs meet that is i guess spring loaded to open the tripod legs/batteries are an easy way to prevent charging of the other legs but dropping 0.6V could be a problem for running the Crees at high current unless I use a boost power supply, which I don't want to do. I used the booster circuit from the headlamp and stuffed it into the case. The only thing I used from the stock light was the diodes and the on/off switch. What kind of output are you expecting without the booster? I tried it straight from the batteries and it was pretty lame. If I have my Eneloops supplying 1.2V each under load, that'll be 3.6V total, which would be enough to drive a Cree at very roughly 850mA, or "decently bright". (Halfway between the 3.5V @ 700mA and 3.7V @ 1A operating voltage figures in the Cree datasheet.) If the silicon diode is dropping 0.6 volts, then we have only 3.0V, which is enough to drive a Cree at, well, not much at all. Still better than the stock 5mm LEDs though. If we replaced the diodes with germanium with a 0.2V drop, we have 3.4V available (and still charging protected), which is enough for very roughly 425mÅ, which will still be decently bright, especially since there's three of them, and operating more efficiently than at the higher current. (I think it would actually be higher, since ~425mA wouldn't cause the Eneloops, we could have over four hours run time. Problem: The best locally available germanium diodes can only handle 50mA. :sigh: Would it be too bad to simply dump the diodes? Or perhaps only use one tripod leg with cells in it? I tried the batteries directly, without the diodes but the led drew too much current. you need a power supply, period. you can't just go by the voltage numbers because the voltage drop then you'll only get a short useable time before the voltage drops below their optimal working level. you'll likely need a constant voltage supply (or con reinvent the wheel. Dump the diodes and stick with matched cells. I own two of these 369's and plan to mod one with CREEs or Luxeons. (the other was a gift from the significant other, and will stay stock) These went for as low as \$6.25 USD at Target last year, I managed to buy one. The diodes are coming out for modding. I have an Energizer Hardcase 4AA that is serial/parallel. And also use AA-to-D adapters that parallel a pair of AAs. I have not experienced any problems in a year with either set up, no diodes anywhere. Rayovacs and (Sanyo) Duracells are used respectively. Last edited: Aug 23, 2007 That's good to know of your experience, WNG, thanks. you need a power supply, period. really don't understand your dogmatism. Have you never heard of resistors or linear regulators? Neither are power supplies, and both will likely do as good a job as a boost circuit in this situation for providing an even light output, as NiMH cells have a very even voltage while discharging. And why haven't you seen the Cree datasheet? Not interested in those sorts of details, or are you just getting into bright LEDs? The Crees are great - highly recommended. I really don't understand your dogmatism. Have you never heard of resistors or linear regulators? Neither are power supplies, and both will likely do as good a job as a boost circuit in this situation for providing an even light output... I am not disputing the fact that the Crees are good. My point is that in order to get consistent light output at high currents, you'll need to properly regulate the power (unless you want to change batteries as soon as your voltage drops below 3.4V). Of course you can get something to light up with just a resistor, let us know what you come up with. By the way, Linear Regulators are only used when you are trying get a regulated lower voltage from a higher one. The voltage drop with a linear reg is much more than the diodes (about 1.5V for a low-drop regulator) and any energy lost in bringing the voltage drop with a linear reg is much more than the diodes (about 1.5V for a low-drop regulator) and any energy lost in bringing the voltage down (5v to 3.3v for ex.) will be wasted as heat. NOT what you want to use. IMO, to do it right, you'd need a driver in the form of a switching regulator in a buck/boost topology so that it can give you a constant output even if the input drops below a predetermined voltage. This is why I used the guts of the headlamp for my mod, the driver was built in. Anyway, that is enough for today. If you want to know more, you can go to school and get an electrical engineering degree, like I did. That's where my dogmatism comes from. (unless you want to change batteries as soon as your voltage drops below 3.4V). :thinking: But when three Eneloop AAs get that low (loaded voltage at 1A) they are due for recharging anyway. Really. The voltage drop with a linear reg is much more than the diodes (about 1.5V for a low-drop regulator) and any energy lost in bringing the voltage down (5v to 3.3v for ex.) will be wasted as heat. NOT what you want to use. (They work so nicely with three Encloops that I'm also changing my caving light from its present four cell design.) I don't think it has anything to do with which of us got our degrees more recently, just that you haven't caught up with the latest news. :kiss: I can post a link if you're having trouble finding Tom's NiMH shootout. I've just been through my supply of Crees and found three that have 1A operating voltages of 3.45 to 3.50 volts. They do rather make a lot of heat tho. Maybe 350mA would be safer, with a turbo button of course. Yeah. (Even just 3 Eneloops driving these three Crees @ 350mA will give about 1.75 hours regulated runtime, or maybe as much as 5.5 hours with 9 cells.) Anyone got any bright ideas about how to mount them? I suppose I could get a local metal worker I know to trim a 5mm thick aluminium panel to fit then just glue them to it. Re: Stanley MaxLife2 369 Tripod I owned the maxlife 369 tripod and while I the tripod design worked well to aim the light where it was needed it was very dim and I never put more than three batteries in it so it was oversized for my application. Now however they make a "1.25 watt" version with a single high output led and it is also offered in a shorty style using only three batteries. Should be brighter and also easier to mod, right? Its called the Maxlife2! I guess you can perforate the body with small holes to allow airflow to convect. through. That's only if you don't plan to expose the light to wet environments. Just saw a commercial for this light and it advertised "Now 10x brighter, and with high output and efficient LED??? arty: Have you seen post 31 above? The original has lousy driving current when using more than one LED. If I had one I'd rip it apart, toss the electronics and install a direct-drive resistored circuit with a multi-stage switch. Page 3 Looks like the 1.25W version is the "new" one, even though it's been around for many months now. It wouldn't be hard to be ten times brighter. The 6 LEDs in mine are so low quality they're 6 different tints. just saw a commercial for it last night Saw one of these in our local hardware store. Package was a trifle dusty. \$44.99. No wonder. Put it back on the shelf. I had the original tripod but just picked this one up today at Lowes for \$30.00. Stanley +3-in-1+Tripod+LED+Flashlight It is 3 separate flashlights in one, they have reflectors, are single level and the emitter is possibly a Nichia? When you have all 3 in the tripod base any of the power buttons turns on all 3. The heads can be separately adjusted allowing you to light 3 distinct areas Much brighter and more useful than the original although the tint is still purple and the tripod is plastic instead of aluminum. Mine's been disassembled almost since I got it. Just waiting for some GS LEDs to put into it and hopefully make it more useful. -LT I've seen 3 different versions of this Stanley 369 tripod light. The original : with 6, 5mm LEDs Second gen. : equipped with a Lux I and domed optic. Third gen. : this one clearly has a CREE mounted in a reflector. However, it is not an XR-E, it could be an XR-C, or even an XP-C LED. (Only 2 bond wires on the LED.) The packaging claims 40 lumens. EDIT: after clicking Beamhead's link, theres yet another generation... :laughing: Last edited: Oct 23, 2008 I've seen 3 different versions of this Stanley 369 tripod light. The original : with 6, 5mm LEDs. Second gen. : equipped with a Lux I and domed optic. Third gen. : this one clearly has a CREE mounted in a reflector. However, it is not an XR-E, it could be an XR-C, or even an XP-C LED. (Only 2 bond wires on the LED.) The packaging claims 40 lumens. EDIT: after clicking Beamhead's link, theres yet another generation... :laughing: Well, I've looked over this thread purty well, and I think I picked up a fifth version of the MaxLife 369 (95-112). Wal-Mart had a boat load of them for \$10 even. It has one (20 lumens) LED, and it is definitely not a Cree or Lux, and it has no optic, just one big reflector. The LED looks like a very small white square with round yellow (phosphor?) in the center. The white square part has a tiny notch out of one corner. The whole LED is mounted straight to the green PCB which is clearly visible through the large cut out at the base of the reflector. Light output is cheap man's multi-level output: OFF and ON Compared to the 6 LED version, this light puts out a very narrow beam. I can describe the color of the light this puts out as the worst I have ever seen in one single LED. The hot spot is blazing hot violet/purple, and the immediate corona is quite large and bright yellow with slight green tinge. Spill is almost non-existent. All these factors conspire to make this a "Return to Vendor" item! FYI, with only one leg loaded with three AA's, the current draw through the end cap was a hair less than 50 mA. So loaded with nine Eneloops, it should give about 120 hours of run time. So, if the whacked colors mean nothing to you, and run time is everything, this could be just your light. Last edited: Nov 27, 2008 I had the original tripod but just picked this one up today at Lowes for \$30.00. Stanley +3-in-1+Tripod+LED+Flashlight It is 3 separate flashlights in one, they have reflectors, are single level and the emitter is possibly a Nichia? When you have all 3 in the tripod base any of the power buttons turns on all 3. The heads can be separately adjusted allowing you to light 3 distinct areas. Much brighter and more useful than the original although the tint is still purple and the tripod is plastic instead of aluminum. I saw this one at Lowe's a couple weeks back. It looked really nice, but I wasn't willing to drop \$30 on it. This would be a great gift for the average guy who is into tools but not flashlights. It claimed 20 lumens each or 60 lumens if all of them were turned on at the same time. Being able to take it apart and have three separate flashlights is a great design! could you mod this to be like a mag ROP? hmmm.... For anyone interested, they are selling for \$14 bucks at Target (50% off) - They have a clearance section completely filled with them. However I am going to return it tonight (even better now that I found out its \$10 at Walmart!). Its about as bright on high as my LOD is on medium. While Im sure the runtime will be excellent, the output is pathetic for the size. Last edited: Dec 4, 2008 For anyone interested, they are selling for \$14 bucks at Target (50% off) - They have a clearance section completely filled with them. However I am going to return it tonight (even better now that I found out its \$10 at Walmart!). Its about as bright on high as my LOD is on medium. While Im sure the runtime will be excellent, the output is pathetic for the size. Which model are they selling for \$15? adirondackdestroyer said: Which model are they selling for \$15? I was at Target today and they were clearing out the older model that had something like seven LEDS, each with it's own tiny focusing optic built into the lens. It was \$20 marked down to \$14. Next will be \$10 then \$5. The one Wally Mart sells for \$10 is not the same. It is the one with one LED. I tried the seven LED version over a year ago, and was not impressed. But I am even less impressed with the Wally Mart offering, as I noted a few posts above. As a close-quarter work light, which I believe is what this light is striving to be, the seven LED version that Target is clearing out is actually better suited. At least it gives floody light, if not blazing, whereas the Wally Mart version gives a multi-color hot spot with little spill. I will have to look at the model number next time I am in the store, but I saw a Stanley tripod light being sold for just under \$5 (not a mistake) at Home Depot yesterday. It contained just 1 LED and was powered by 3 AA batteries). I pressed the pushbutton on top, hoping for multilevel action, but there is just one brightness level. The box claims 20 lumens. There was a bluish tint on the demo model. I had just walked a mile outside in 10F temperatures, and regret that I didn't have the presence of mind to pay more attention or record the model number. At Walmart saw a pile of these , but a new version. Not called 369 anymore, just "Tripod flashlight". Looks like one 1/4 watt or 1/2 watt LED inside only. Brightness claims 20 lumens ; on box . For \$ 10 each I could not resist buying one. With only 3AA NimH's in one of the legs (3,6,or 9 possible as before) it draws 80mA current. Focused spot with wide spill. Clear plastic bezel not a lens. And surprise: it has a warm orange spill tint while the center spot looks white. Last edited: Dec 10, 2008 I've had 2 of these. As far as lighting goes, they are okay. Run time is pretty damn long. Durability?.....they are GARBAGE! The little battery cap things break. The mechanism that keeps the legs moving together is pretty fragile. The ones I had contained alittle more leds i think though. I bought 2 of these at Lowes' black Friday sale for \$9.99 each, which is half of the original price. My intent was a long running, cheap, emergency lighting set up to go along with my LED lanterns. On the highest setting (6 LEDs) with 9 batteries, it is rated for 48 hours, and at the lowest setting of 1 LED with 9 batteries, it is rated at 200 hours. I found the beam profile to be very usable, and the output very aceptable, considering. A ceiling bounce test in my livingroom / dining room area with 6 LEDs proved extremely adequate, and even 3 LEDs worked well enough to comfortably see what you were doing. With 1 LED, you have a great night light. For \$10 each, they are great, but I wouldn't pay any more for them.

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