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Single Lamp Lights

Firefly Eyewear combines a clip-on LED lamp with a flip-down 2.5X magnifier for those of us whose vision problems run beyond a lack of light. I'm always skeptical of combination devices, but this one is in fact pretty practical. Getting all the players lined up—your eye, the lens, the light, the fly in your fingertips—does require adjusting the hat and magnifier just right, but you get the hang of it. I do find the flat slider switch overly tight for easy one-hand operation, however. But once in business, you have a clear, usably bright working field. An added bonus is that the unit is light enough to keep on your hat in the daytime, when you can use the magnifier alone. Water-resistant shell. \$39.95.

The **Impulse 2** from Princeton Tec packs some highly useful features in a small, light, low-profile package. The large, easy-to-push button is the simplest and most convenient switch of any in the group. Mount this one under your hat brim, and a hinge allows it to pivot far

enough back to point at your chest. The three brightness levels are easy to access. Princeton Tec's long experience in manufacturing high-quality flashlights shows here. A good switch, practical pivoting and bulb color choices make this a top choice in single-lamp units. \$14.99.

The **LEDHedz Micro Hat Lamp** is about as basic as they come. A simple, strong clip secures the unit to the top of your brim, and a slider switch activates the lamp. The switch is a bit tight to operate (especially with wet hands), but it's not a major drawback. It's lightweight and compact, and rounded edges make for easy vest-pocket storage when not in use. This is one for anglers who like their gear simple, straightforward and functional. Water resistant. \$9.95.

LEDHedz also offers the **Tech10**, with a 10mm LED that is about 20 percent brighter than standard bulbs. It has the same hat clip on a similar, but slightly larger, housing and a rubberized slider switch that's easier to operate. Power consumption here shortens the battery life a bit, but it's a good tradeoff if you need the extra illumination. \$7.95.

The **Photon Freedom Micro** is the smallest and one of the lightest of them all. It's mounted on a ball-joint for easy swiveling to any position; clip it under your hat brim and you can even point it straight down. On/off and beam intensity are controlled by a simple push button. Multiple modes (3 speeds of flashing beacon and S.O.S.) are perhaps too clever by half, but in on/off mode, operation is trouble free. The light weight, pivot adjustment and eight bulb color choices are the strong points here. A good choice for the minimalist angler. Water resistant. \$20.

The **LED Clip-On Light** from Wind River is also one of the lightest single-lamp units, but more importantly, it has two very useful features. First, a very strong, clothespin type clamp that attaches securely to a hat brim. And second, the bulb itself (rather than the whole lamp head) rotates 90 degrees from a horizontal position to a vertically downward one—an elegant solution to putting light where you want it. A larger, or less deeply recessed switch would be nice, but it's certainly usable. This one is cleverly done and useful—one of my favorites. \$40.

Multiple-Lamp Lights

The **Black Diamond Ion** is a practical compromise for anglers who want a bit brighter working area or a little larger field of illumination (say, for extricating a fly from the brush) but don't want the added weight of a four- or five-bulb unit. Two LED's here are housed in lightweight swivel housing that is nearly as compact as some single-bulb clip-ons. The low-profile strap doesn't interfere with your hatband at all and is cooler than the wider, beefier straps. Burn time is on the low end, and battery cost on the high side, but if your top priority is ample working light in a light, tidy package, check this one out. Water resistant. \$19.95.

The **#2610 HeadsUp** by Pelican eschews whistles and bells. Press once to light one bulb, twice for all three. There's no cycling through five or six modes, no flashers—just dim or bright, on or off. And the switch gets my vote for the best in the group—easy to access, nice positive click. The light is angled downward to compensate for the lack of a pivoting housing; you just move your head around—not a problem under most circumstances, though bifocal wearers may have difficulty putting the bright spot of the beam into their close-up zone of vision. A nice choice for anglers who want simplicity in design and operation. Waterproof and built like a tank. \$30.95.

The **Tactikka Plus** from Petzl was one of my favorites. A built-in red lens flips up or down to change light color at any of three



Firefly Eyewear

Princeton Tec Impulse 2

Photon Freedom Micro

Wind River LED Clip-On



Pelican #2610 HeadsUp

LED Hedz Micro Hat Lamp



LED Hedz Tech 10



Black Diamond Ion

