

FLOWLIGHT OPTIMIZATION GUIDE

Your flowlight is a high-performance electronic instrument. We like to think of it like a musical instrument, sports equipment, or a tool. Understanding its features and giving it a little care will enable maximum performance. Keep this guide for an optimal flowlight experience!

OPTIMIZING YOUR GLOW – UNDERSTANDING YOUR BATTERIES

We wanted the light to be bright and powered by a rechargeable source, so that we can all shine brightly with renewable energy. Hence we designed the flowlight to use a DC-DC voltage converter to run all 3 LEDs at optimum brightness off one AAA battery – this means you can use rechargeable batteries and that your flowlights will run at full brightness for the life of the battery, i.e. it does not dim over time.

How long does a battery last? There are batteries and there are Batteries. With fully charged NiMH rechargeables or good alkalines, flowlights normally last for 3 hours in "bold" mode, 7 hours in most of other modes and 11 hours in beacon.

Cheapo disposable batteries, rechargeable alkalines or NiCD may last less than 30 minutes, as they cannot handle the current draw of the flowlight. High-quality alkalines might last a bit longer than rechargeables, but they do not maintain their voltage well under heavy loads and do not offer as good performance as rechargeables.

How long will a rechargeable battery hold a charge? Typical NiMH rechargeables hold a good charge for a few weeks. After that they may have less than 50% of their charge left, so we recommend charging your batteries within a week of any important uses, like festivals, parties or performances.

"Low self-discharge" batteries like "eneloop" and other similar brands will hold their charge for about a year and can take many more charges over the lifetime of the battery. They are better and more convenient than regular rechargeables, but cost a little more.

As you can see the flowlights are optimized for rechargeables, so our recommendation is USE RECHARGEABLE NiMHs and use quality ones if you can!

OPERATING YOUR FLOWLIGHT

Opening your battery door: We designed the battery door so that we wouldn't need a screwdriver to open it and that it would not pop out during play. The battery door fits within the flowlight's compact form and is designed to help spread light around the battery. Designing the door was a crazy process and sometimes opening the door can be challenging, but there are several tricks to make it easy for everyone!

Basically there is only one direction in which you need to apply pressure to the door to release it and there are several ways to apply that pressure:

There is a slight lip at the tip of the door and the lip needs to go down towards the belly of the light and forwards towards the head of the light. There are "feelers" at the top of the battery door and they need to be released before you can pull the door out.

You can either use your thumb or another hard object (another flowlight works really well) to push down and forwards on the tip of the door. Do not push on the main part of the door itself – this will not get you closer to opening the battery door. Once you have released the battery door, you can pull pretty firmly on the door to pull the whole door out and access the battery compartment.

Getting the battery out: All batteries that were released since 2010 have a transparent battery pull tab – make sure you insert your battery with the tab across the bottom of the battery compartment to allow the tab to be used. A firm tap on a table or other semi-hard object will also cause the battery to pop out of the compartment - we like using the edge of a plastic bin when changing lots of batteries.

Flowlight modes: There is 1 button that controls all 11 modes. There are 2 dimensions of modes – the 1st dimension has a variety of modes for ambient lighting (breath and bliss), flashlight mode (bold), spinning and a beacon mode. The 2nd dimension has modes that leave awesome trails and were designed specifically for spinning. There is also a demo mode at the end of the 2nd dimension (11th mode). Press the button once and you get to Dimension 1 (D1), mode 1. Press again and you get to D1, mode 2, and so on. At any point in D1, you can access the 2nd dimension (D2) by pressing and holding the button down for just over 1 second until it flashes. You will reach D2, mode 1. Press normally and you will be navigating through the 2nd dimension.

To turn off, hold the button down for about 2 seconds. You can also turn off by pressing the button until you reach the end of the dimension you are in.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Whilst we test every light, some defects still get through. However most apparently faulty flowlight behavior is easily remedied. A truly defective flowtoys product can always be repaired or replaced, but generally they just require a good battery or a little care.

99% OF "FAULTY" FLOWLIGHT BEHAVIOR IS SIMPLY A BATTERY ISSUE!!!

Does your flowlight blink strangely OR turn off easily when bumped OR turn off shortly after it has been turned on for no apparent reason? Charge/change you battery, clean your contacts, check the following:

- 1. Use only rechargeables or good alkalines.** The circuitry is optimized for rechargeables. The light is bright and draws a lot of power, so cheapo batteries don't last long, can't keep up and makes the light turn off easily. The difference can be the light lasting under 30 minutes or 7 hours!
- 2. Your battery is low.** Try a battery that you are sure is good; switch your batteries around to double check. The flowlight's voltage converter produces 4V from a single AAA until it is almost completely discharged, so it can be very hard to tell when the battery is low and the light may appear faulty, as it turns on at full brightness and quickly dims out or shuts off for no apparent reason. One way to tell if your battery is low is to turn the light to BOLD mode and wait 30 seconds. If your battery is low, the light will dim and turn off.
- 3.** This next one is silly, but happens often enough: **Check that your batteries are clear of physical debris.** The battery connection is tight, so the plastic cover on many batteries gets torn off a little and sticks to the underside of the battery, preventing a good connection. We trim the ring of extra plastic off all our batteries.
- 4. Your contacts may be oxidized.** Do the battery or spring contacts have black marks or debris on them? This is usually oxidation caused by vibration. Clean the battery and spring. Petroleum jelly (vaseline) or a mineral oil on a q-tip or cloth is the best way we know of to clean and ensure electrical conductivity and prevent oxidation.

DURABILITY

While they serve as attractive ambient and safety lighting devices, many flowlights spend their lives being swung around, tossed, dropped and hit against each other. They are designed to handle the typical impacts of a kinetic lifestyle and we continually work to make this electronic device with a full-size battery handle the kind of impacts that would damage a well-built cell-phone or wristwatch.

However nothing is indestructible - flowlights are electronic instruments and practicing and dropping your rigs over a hard floor for a couple of hours a day will eventually break some lights, so you might want to consider practicing over carpeting or grass if you drop frequently.

Please note: Chemical glowsticks release gaseous esters that break down polycarbonate and make it brittle, this occurs normally and is not a result of broken or leaking glow-sticks. Avoid exposure!

WHICH COLOR IS THIS?

Each flowlight is color coded to tell you what color the light is without turning it on. There is a color indicator on the right side of the circuit board between the button and battery door – the LEDs are colored accordingly.

The Home of Poi Hassle Free Warranty

At Home of Poi we have a 12 month warranty/replacement process on all items purchased from us in the unlikely event that a fault occurs. This does not include claims arising from abuse or misuse.

Unlike other warranties we do not ask you to send products back at your cost, we avoid this hassle for you by simply asking for photos and/or video of the fault.

Once your claim is approved we will then send free parts/product with shipping all paid by Home of Poi or apply store credit to remedy the situation. We feel this warranty substantially reduces the waiting times and expense for you our valued customer.

Most products can be recycled or reused locally, reducing the carbon footprint by not having to send items back and forth.

This really is the HoP hassle free, cost free, environmentally friendly warranty process.

Please contact us at support@homeofpoi.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SPECTRUM FLOWLIGHT

Presenting the latest addition to the Astral Series - the Spectrum flowlight! A multicolor flowlight experience with all the modes you love and an epic rainbow twist. Plus all modes are superbright!

We love the rainbow and we love the idea of color changing lights, but there was always something about RGB glow-stuff that wasn't *just right* - too blinky, too red, hmm that green is way too saturated, ouch those colors clash a lot ... we care about these things! So we sought to create a multicolored flowlight that honoured its original beauty, and that we would enjoy playing with and looking at for a long time.

We custom made the LEDs and carefully designed the software to optimize the color palettes. We designed the circuitry so the light would not dim over time and would last as long as other flowlights - over 7hrs runtime for most modes! It was a challenge, but we think we pretty much nailed it and without increasing the price - more awesome for the same price :)

The spectrum of light in our universe is so beautiful - we are honoured to share our vision with you.

Some things you should know about your spectrum flowlight:

Batteries:

Spectrum is a 2nd generation Flowlight and can take both rechargeable NiMH batteries and Lithium-ions. Li-ions have an extra 20% runtime and hold most of their charge for over year. NiMHs are cheaper, but hold their charge for just a few weeks. We recommend charging NiMHs within a week of important uses like performances, parties and festivals.

Memory feature:

Like other flowlights, the spectrum light can record what mode it's in. If you hold the button until it turns off (instead of cycling through the modes to off), it will return to that mode if you hold the button for more than 1 sec. when turning it on.

Run-time:

7+ hours in modes 4-11

3+ hours in modes 1-3

Colors and modes:

Each LED has a color-cycle that can't be changed, but the timing of the cycles and the patterns they make are where the magic happens.

If you're not in the mood for a full-spectrum rainbow, mode 5 (beacon) displays only shades of blue and purple.

The spectrum light has its own version of all 11 original Flowlight modes, all in superbright! The navigation is the same as other Flowlights, but without the separate "superbright" section.

Spectrum modes:

1. Breathe: consistent fade - all LEDs color-cycle together
2. Bliss: contrasting fade - all LEDs color-cycle is offset
3. Bold: organic phase-shift - all LEDs color-cycle gradually goes out of sync, infinitely
4. Beat: striking strobe - all LEDs color-cycle is offset and strobing
5. Beacon: restricted color palette - each led alternately fades from blue to red and resets for a spirit-like color theme
6. Bling: controlled off-set strobe, just like original flowlight mode, but spectrum
7. Beads: tight, overlapping blips, like a multi-colored beaded necklace
8. Blaze: rainbow fire! - all leds pulse together, colors contrast
9. Bounce: alternating pulse appears to bounce, colors stick together
10. Booyah!: full-on strobing, pulsing, bouncing striking awesomeness!
11. Bounty: demo mode - cycles through each mode for 11 sec.