

LED LIGHT KIT

LitePanels LED Lighting System

by Stephen Murphy

One of the great things about working in the industry and writing for **TV Technology** is the steady exposure to new tools of the trade that I might otherwise miss due to schedule and financial constraints.

In the past several months, I have had the opportunity to try out some products that I never would have considered essential, yet once exposed, I wondered how I got along without them. The LitePanels Two-Lite Mini Package LED lighting system is a perfect example.

FEATURES

The principal component of LitePanels' lighting systems is the Mini LitePanel LED head, a compact and lightweight unit featuring a 20x7 array of white LEDs.

The LED array is housed in a rugged anodized aluminum enclosure with a Plexiglas lens. The unit radiates very little heat, thanks to the efficiency of LEDs and a substantial heat

sink covering the back of the enclosure.

The Mini LitePanel measures 6.75 x 2.25 x 1.25 inches and weighs less than one pound without the snap-on battery pack; total weight with battery pack is about 3.5 pounds.

In addition to the rear-mounted, snap-on battery pack, the Mini LitePanel head can be powered by virtually any DC power source that provides 5 to 24 V, including a standard camera battery, car lighter or AC adapter.

According to the manufacturer, the Mini LitePanel is three times as efficient as comparable tungsten light sources, drawing just 0.6 Amps at 12 V. The integrated battery pack provides more than an hour of continuous use at full-output level.

The LED array projects a sphere of flicker-free, daylight-balanced (5600K) white light. Each Mini LitePanel includes a collection of 16 color/diffusion gels that easily slip under the Velcro-ed clear plastic lens cover.

The Mini LitePanel head features an output dimmer knob for fine-tuning light levels. At full output, the LitePanel produces 80 foot-candles at a distance of two feet and 18 foot-candles at four feet. The color temperature remains at 5600K across the dimmer range.

LitePanels offers a complete two-light package (reviewed here) complete with road case for \$2,195, or a single light kit for \$749.

The Two-Lite Mini Package includes two Mini LitePanel heads with battery packs plus a comprehensive set of power and mounting accessories. Included in the kit are two AC



LitePanels' light consists of a 20x7 array of white LEDs in an aluminum case. A dimmer is built into the case.

power transformers (with interchangeable international socket adapters), two gel kits, two snap-on base plates, two car lighter adapters, a car lighter Y-splitter, two power cable extensions and a shoe adapter.

The Camera Lite Kit includes a single Mini LitePanel head, gel kit, Anton/Bauer D-Tap power cable and a shoe adapter. Additional accessories, such as a shoe-mount swivel arm (\$175) or ballhead (\$95), can be purchased on the LitePanels Web site.

IN USE

For review, LitePanels provided the Two-Lite Mini Package plus the optional swivel arm, two ballheads and an Anton/Bauer adapter. Upon first inspection, the kit presents a dazzling array of bits and pieces that provides contingency for a range of setups and locations.

FAST FACTS

Application

ENG/EFP

Key Features

LED heads with battery packs; daylight balanced (5600K)

Price

\$2,195

Contact

LitePanels
818-752-7009,
www.litepanels.com

