

OLIGHT X7R MARAUDER

You all probably remember the little can sized beast we reviewed a while ago. Olight has delivered once again and unleashed a new version of their X7 Marauder. It's the X7R Marauder. As you might have guessed, the R stands for RECHARGEABLE.



OVERVIEW

Manufacturer's specifications:

Batteries: 4x 18650, high drain battery pack, not user replaceable

LED: 3x Cree XHP70 in cool white

Strobe: Yes

Waterproof: IPX7

Mode memory: yes, except turbo and turbo S, which revert down to high, which in turn is memorized for 10 minutes and reverts to medium

Low voltage protection: side switch led indicator when battery voltage low, automatic power cutoff at critical levels

Thermal regulation: yes, reduces output to prevent overheating

Output specs:

Maximum output: 12000 lumens for 3 minutes + 3000 lumens for two hours minutes

Other output levels: 7000/3000/1000/500/10 lumens

Light intensity: 36100 candela

Beam distance: 380 m

Measured dimensions and weight:

Length: 128.5mm

Head width: 68.3mm

Handle width: 51.8mm

Weight: 659g



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The X7R Marauder is the successor of the X7 Marauder released a year ago in September 2016. Here's what's been changed on the X7R compared to the X7:

- The box says 33% higher output 12000 lumens instead of 9000
- Integrated USB charger
- Lanyard attachment point
- Proximity sensor to automatically lower output
- Backlit side switch
- Permanently closed body
- IPX7 instead of IPX8 water resistance

WHAT YOU GET IN THE BOX

The flashlight comes packed in a sturdy retail box, just like other premium lights. When you open the magnetically attached top lid, the flashlight is presented in all its glory.



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In the lower compartment of the box, you find the user manual, a very nice paracord lanyard with a plastic cord lock, a holster, USB power adapter and a charging cable. No sticker this time. Spare O-rings are also absent. This is because of the fact that as an end user, you cannot open the flashlight at all.



The holster features a plastic D-ring for alternative ways of attaching to your gear and a standard belt loop, closed with Velcro. The bottom strap can be expanded to fit larger belts, just by removing the blue thread.



APPERANCE

The overall design has not changed much from the X7, but still there are some differences. The physical size is the same, but the new X7R has finger grooves on the opposite side of the switch and different body texture.



Also a major difference is the blue protruding lanyard attachment hole, which is neatly tucked in the handle when not in use. When in use, the lanyard is long enough to allow normal use and the cord lock secures the light neatly.



The flashlight itself cannot be opened by an end user without use of a special tool. The old X7 could be opened by unscrewing the bottom cover, but the new X7R can only be twisted for 10° to open the charging port.

PRACTICAL USE

Starting at the top, let's first focus on the head of the flashlight. By the looks of it, the output increase hasn't been achieved by switching to the newer and more efficient XHP70.2 emitters. So the X7R is just driven harder and/or has higher binned emitters. Puts out more light for the same weight and it doesn't get hotter. Fine with us.



The major difference is the proximity sensor. This is in fact just a light sensor, which turns down the power if it gets hit by too much light. This is a nice feature, as it prevents burning a hole in your pocket or backpack. Everyone who has previously used flashlights with this kind of power can tell you that this can and will be a problem eventually.



It waits for 3 seconds before dropping the power down to some 400 lumens, when it gets hit with too much light. The wait period is just right for use in close quarters.

It jumps back to previous power in just a second when moved away from the obstacle. Output limiting typically happens at 5-15 centimeters depending on the output level, but can happen further away with highly reflective surfaces.

The reflectors are similar to the X7, being shallow and with orange peel texture. The most noticeable difference is the beam, which has a more linear spot to flood light cone transition.



Moving along down the body, the X7R now features a backlit Olight O side switch instead of a separate led. Also, the old X7 had a photo-luminescent O-ring placed below the glass. With the X7R, the button now glows green in “breathing” manner when you move the light ever so slightly.



It continues to glow for about 10 seconds after the last press of the button if left completely still. This is handy for finding the button in pitch dark and locating the flashlight if dropped. It also glows red when the batteries are almost depleted. So it's battery warning, button location indicator and a beacon combined.

The button is quite stiff, so accidental activation is almost impossible. For storage and transport I would suggest an electronic lockout, as the new X7R still allows you to do that.

The retractable lanyard hole sits nicely tucked away. When needed, it slides out like a foldable knife and creates just enough room for lanyard attachment.



On the bottom, the tail cap features a charging port with a sliding cover.



Just turn the cap counter clockwise to open the port and clockwise to close it back again. The function feels snappy and secure.



When the cable is plugged in and charging, the hole surrounding the port will glow red. It glows green when charging is done.



The flashlight can withstand some hard abuse, but the IPX7 water resistance bugged me a bit. We did try submerging the light into 1m deep water and it did not show any signs of failure. Using it in heavy rain is no problem, besides having to use a lower power setting because of light reflection.

In comparison to the X7, the X7R has a smoother transition from its spot to flood light cone. It just creates a wall of light. The throw depends on the weather, but while testing we could effectively illuminate a mountain area from some 350-400m away.



Operation is as follows

From OFF:

- Single click turns the light ON on previously used mode (except turbo, turbo s and strobe or high after 10 minutes)
- Double click turns the light ON on turbo
- Triple click turns the light ON on strobe
- Press and hold to access nightlight (moonlight)
- Keep pressed for electronic lockout, repeat to unlock

From ON:

- Single click turns the light OFF
- Long press and hold cycles low, mid, high starting from the next mode or from low if moonlight or turbo was selected
- Double click activates turbo
- Double click on turbo activates turbo S
- Triple click for strobe

Strobe can be activated with a rapid series of clicks amounting to at least three, so in panic you'll probably get it right. Just remember to stop clicking to start the mode.



The two highest modes turbo and turbo S are memorized as high. So every time you turn it on, double click to go turbo, if there is enough battery, another double click and you make daylight. Pretty straight forward. High is memorized for 10 minutes after which it reverts to medium. Strobe is never memorized.

The output is a bit different than with the X7. When turning ON the X7R on turbo S mode, it seems to hold the power for a good minute and a half, then it starts to slowly drop to about half. This takes about four minutes. If you are observing the beam with peripheral vision, sitting in a room, you notice this. You also notice the small drops in power as time goes by and by the ten minute mark, the power drops to a third. If you are outside however, moving around and using the light to illuminate your path or searching for something, your eyes don't pick up the tiny changes in power. By the time the flashlight drops the power, your eyes are adapted to less light. The X7 held its lower power a bit longer, but the drop was more sudden and noticeable even when outside.

BATTERY PACK AND CHARGING

There's no user replaceable 18650's in the X7R. The light is sealed and requires a special tool to open it. You just plug in a Type-C usb cable to charge it.

The X7R is bundled with a high current (4A) USB power supply. It outputs five volts to the light via a USB-A - Type-C cable. According to Olight the charger is three times faster than your normal Micro-USB chargeable light. It's a nice move on Olight's end that they include it in the package, as mostly with different products, you only get a charging cable.



The cable is 800mm long. Some other reviewers were able to measure the resistance of the cable, which is 70 mohm. Even the best short Micro-USB cables rarely go below 100 mohm. Low resistance is important with high currents, to not waste power by heating up the connections and cables.

The high current requirement does limit your spare supply options a lot, since there's not a lot of 5V/4A USB power supplies around. Slower charging is of course possible.



Charge time for a completely drained set of batteries is about 3h 30min to 3h 45min. The light still works when plugged in and the charging indicator glows red. We did not test however different charge times on different power settings if using it, while charging. It's safe to assume it could take 1 while.



CONCLUSION

The X7R is a worthy successor to the X7. The only thing that bothers me besides the IPX7, is that you can't change the batteries, when the installed ones run out. If the batteries wear out, the whole flashlight needs to be shipped for servicing. Mostly, the improvements were aimed toward non-flashlight people. By that I mean the guys and gals that just want a plug and play experience.

Everything about the flashlight feels absolutely premium though. From the anodizing finish to the button and charging port operation. Most importantly, the X7R is very safe to use, since the thermal regulation keeps the light from overheating. Combined with a simple user interface you don't need to be a flashlight aficionado to pick it up and effectively put it to use. The included holster is meant for recreational use, so if you plan on using the flashlight hard, we suggest you look into some aftermarket options.

Be sure to check all of our other Olight products on our web site, where we offer Military/Police/Outdoor equipment and can provide solutions for all situations, needs and users.

<http://www.365-plus.com/olight-flashlights>