

Seen the Light?

What is in a light? A light has many uses and certainly if you are using it, it needs to work. When the conversation turns to the use of lights in a defensive posture, certainly 100% reliability is the end goal. Now there is no light other than the one up in the sky brought to us by Divine intervention can be reasonably assured to work. However, there are some genuine products that will get the job done.

Elzetta Design, LLC is a recent flashlight that we tested and really REALLY got to know. The aspects that I looked at were reliability, ease of use, parts replacement, and functionality when used in low light shooting.

The Elzetta ZFL-M60 was the test that we ran through. The design of the flashlight has some very nifty scallops on the light that is more than just appealing to the eyes. The scallops make grabbing the light easy out of a light holder on your belt or wherever you have it. Achieving a solid grip on the light made using one of the many light retention techniques like “FBI”, “Garcia” “Cigar” and other types quite simple. Having two scallops on both sides made for gripping the light easy and firm. In my opinion, a tailcap design is a must. Furthermore, a tailcap light that does not have a “click-on” and “click-off” switch is important. If you shoot, you move only after turning the light off. If you fumble on the move and unable to turn a click on-off style tailcap switch off, than these style lights become bullet magnets.



Parts replacement is easy. Simply contact Elzetta and they can get you in the right direction. Bulbs can be purchased at Malkoff Devices (www.malkoffdevices.com) with lots of choices. Now I am sure that you may not want to or maybe not advisable, but if you need to drive a couple of nails into a 2x4, the light will fit the bill.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6bYZZUS3WA>

Reliability of the Elzetta M60 was the next task at hand. When I tested the M60, I wanted to see the length of light burn, ability to stand up to extreme environmental circumstances and still keep ticking. I feel that the M60 easily met my goals. The burn time on the light using the Malkoff drop in bulbs gives the M60 a boost. The light burned for 2 hours (albeit it does get hot) without much drop in light emission. Just do not go grabbing it without an oven mitt for a couple of minutes. This was a constant light using 2 each Surefire SF123A 3-volt batteries. After a couple of hours, the light dissipated substantially but this is expected. I cannot think of a situation where I would need a two hour full burn unless I was using the light to keep warm.

When I tested the light in the “extreme environment” I really tested it. Now May in Kentucky gets warm but I could not call up any tornados to test it in, so after some intense thought on it (and a load of laundry needing attention) I had it. I opened up the washer and tossed it in. After the warm water wash, spin cycle and the final fall to the bottom after the centrifugal force released the light, I stuck the batteries back in, and the light fired right up. That suited me just fine. I was done testing. If that light can survive one of my shirts (seen in picture) after a day on the range, and the washer itself, I was impressed.

I think that its ease of use is another plus.

There are many lights out there with the tailcap design and that is great. Being able to grab the light in any direction and always having the button easily accessible, unlike the old side switch lights, will give you a tactical advantage. Now the difference is the scallops mentioned earlier. I really like the ergonomics of the scallops and had no problem getting a good grip without any delay. Keep an eye on the tailcap, the M60 like most others can twist on you and inadvertently turn themselves on when you least expect it, but with a bit of adjusting and calibrating it to where it does not turn on



mistakenly and still able to turn on when you need it is simple. Be sure to check it out or you will have a dead light when you need it to come on. Of course we always do a preventive check on our gear that we need. Unless it has “Made by Jesus” on it we can expect less than perfection.

Now down to the “meat and potatoes” of this little light. How bright is it? Can I see in the dark with it? What is the simple answer? Yes. For comparison uses only, I used a Surefire G2 flashlight. I used brand new batteries in both and both were brand new before any “testing” was used. You can make your own judgments about the two, but here are the differences that I found. I wanted to see how the light was useful at variable ranges and I used 5, 10 and 25 meters. These are the ranges that are common that one may need to determine whether something is a threat or not.



Elzetta ZFL-M60

5 Meters using a Riposte-III Target



Surefire G2

Understandably both flashlights illuminate both targets, but detail in the Elzetta is very dominating on the target. Also notice the peripheral area around both targets. The M60 gives significant coverage if additional objects or targets are in the general area.



Elzetta ZFL-M60

10 Meters



Surefire G2

At 10 meters, the M60 has lots of peripheral coverage and the target is fully illuminated.



Elzetta ZFL-M60

25 Meters



Surefire G2

Now this article is not about one light being necessarily better than another, but about the Elzetta designed ZFL-M60 and its abilities and performance. If you are looking for a solid, functional and well-designed flashlight, I do think a stop and look at Elzetta, made in Kentucky, would not be a bad idea.

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