

CYGO-LITE CENTAURI-1000 LIGHT



When you are serious about the dark

CygoLite offers lights for everyone—from casual commuters to hardcore midnight marauders. The all-new \$449.95 Centauri-1000 sits at the top of the CygoLite heap and is intended for the rider who doesn't let a little thing like darkness slow him down.

Tech features: The Centauri-1000 has dual high-brightness LEDs, a claimed 1000 lumens brightness output, four brightness levels (high, medium high, medium low or low), four flashing modes (fast, slow, walking or SOS), and an aluminum alloy headlight casing. The most unique feature is called “On-Site Programmable” technology (or OSP), which permits the rider to adjust the level of the beams and flashes. The light comes with a high-capacity Li-ion battery and charger. It can be helmet- or handlebar-mounted and comes with the necessary cables for either mounting option. The dual-beam headlight with handlebar-mounting bracket weighed 6.1 ounces, and the 3-inch-long battery with mounting strap weighed 9.2 ounces. You can get more information by calling CygoLite at (714) 437-7752.

Test results:

The light snaps on the handlebar mount, but the mount itself is so easy to attach and remove that this ends up being a bonus feature for the rider who wants to keep the mounting bracket

on the bike at all times. The supplied mounting strips allowed the mounting bracket to fit all the bikes in our fleet, and it takes all of two minutes to mount or remove it.

The battery proved just a bit too long to mount under the 90-millimeter stem, so we strapped it under the top tube. It never came loose or made contact with a rider during our testing.

The headlight unit is in a tough aluminum casing, and the dual beams are recessed to protect them. The two beams are always illuminated no matter what beam brightness mode you choose. When you have the light positioned properly, it is fair to assume you will be descending as fast at night as you do in the daylight. The beam spread that keeps little surprises from becoming big problems.

We found the OSP to be the biggest advantage while in use on the lower beams. We always want our high beam to blast, but the lower beams are not as important, especially when you are climbing or the moon is adding to the illumination. In these cases, the OSP allows you to easily dial down the brightness of the beam to an illumination perfect for the riding conditions. We began the test thinking it was a gimmick and ended the test using it on every ride.

As far as burn times, we were able to hit all of CygoLite's claimed durations. That's a little less than three hours when blasting the Centauri-1000 and 12 hours at the lowest setting.

This is not a cheap light, but how many cheap lights have turned off riders from the fun of night riding? If you clamp a Centauri-1000 to your handlebar or helmet, we are pretty sure you will become addicted to nocturnal pedaling.

