

EDC™ Tactical™ Flashlight  
Advanced User's Guide

HDS SYSTEMS™

# **EDC Tactical Flashlight Advanced User's Guide**

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Congratulations for purchasing a superior flashlight. The HDS Systems EDC (everyday carry) Tactical flashlight is a best-of-class flashlight, providing regulated output at your desired brightness for extended periods. The rotary control provides a convenient and precise way to select the desired mode of operation, providing momentary for “flash and dash” tactical operations or click on, click off for navigation, investigation or filling out paper work with a rotary control to select the desired brightness level. You can customize your flashlight’s operation and output levels for added utility. Lithium-ion rechargeable batteries are fully supported and recommended for a lower operating cost. Finally, your flashlight is built tough and water resistant to provide a lifetime of dependable service – all in a small, rugged and easy to carry package.

## **Introduction**

Tactical use is fundamentally different from utilitarian use. The EDC Tactical is the first small high power flashlight to combine both functions in a single EDC flashlight without compromise. The combination of a rotary control selection with single button operation makes this the most advanced tactical flashlight available. And it is simple to operate with one hand – because your other hand is probably busy doing something else.

Tactical usage requires a momentary mode of operation to allow “flash and dash” techniques, and to ensure your flashlight will turn off if it is accidentally dropped. You can select either Maximum or Tactical Strobe. Both can be quickly and reliably selected under stress with heavy gloves in a noisy environment – using only gross motor skills.

There are many utilitarian situations where a conventional click on, click off interface is desired. A traffic stop. Navigating the woods. Investigating a crime scene. Filling out paperwork. In this mode of operation, we allow you to adjust your light output from bright to dim using the convenient rotary control.

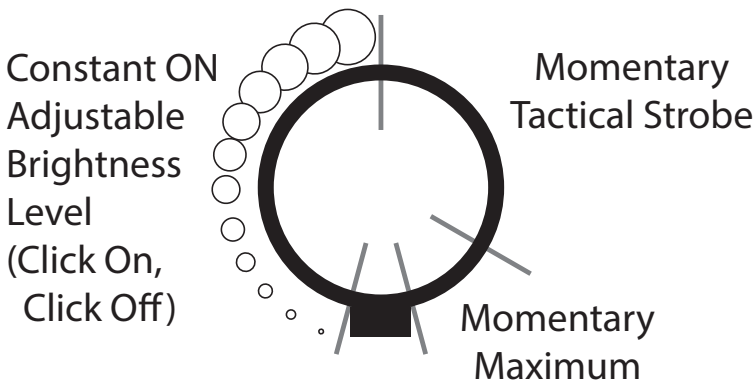
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## 1. Basic Operation

The rotary control selects the basic mode of operation:

- Fully clock-wise: momentary Maximum.
- Mostly clock-wise: momentary Tactical Strobe.
- Counter clock-wise: constant ON adjustable brightness level.



In the Momentary Maximum position, when the button is pressed, your flashlight is on; when the button is released, your flashlight is off. This method of operation is used for “flash and dash” tactical techniques. This method of operation also ensures that if you should accidentally

drop your flashlight, your flashlight will not provide your opponent with a ready target.

Momentary Maximum can be selected quickly and reliably by rotating the knob clockwise all the way to the stop.

In the Momentary Tactical Strobe position, when the button is pressed, your flashlight is on; when the button is released, your flashlight is off. This method of operation is used for disorienting and subduing a person without the use of deadly force. This method of operation also ensures that if you should accidentally drop your flashlight, your flashlight will not provide your opponent with a ready target.

Momentary Tactical Strobe can be selected quickly and reliably by rotating the knob clockwise all the way to the stop and then rotating the knob a quarter turn away from the stop.

In the Constant ON Adjustable Brightness Level position, **clicking** the button (a quick press and release of the button) will turn on your flashlight. The rotary control is used to select any desired brightness level from bright to dim – including Tactical Strobe and Maximum. Clicking the button a second time will turn off your flashlight.

While your flashlight is on, you can **press and hold** the button to momentarily activate Maximum – releasing the button returns to the previous brightness level.

While your flashlight is on, you can **double-click** to toggle between the selected brightness level and Maximum.

While your flashlight is on, you can also **click, press-hold-release** to activate Maximum and **double-click** to return to the previously selected brightness level.

In the Constant ON Adjustable Brightness Level position, when your flashlight is off, you can **press and hold from off** to use the adjustable brightness levels in a momentary fashion. When you release the button, your flashlight will turn off. **Click, press and hold from off** works in a similar momentary fashion but turns on to Maximum instead. This pseudo-momentary feature can be disabled in the Option menu.

Please see *Advanced Operation* in section 8 for more details.

Please also check our web site for updates to this manual.

## 2. Low Battery Indication

Your flashlight will turn off momentarily and then back on one level below the previous brightness level when the battery is unable to supply enough power to run the current brightness level. This process is repeated as needed as the battery's power is depleted.

Your flashlight will double-blink once every two minutes to remind you that the battery needs to be changed when the battery is no longer capable of maintaining a 50 lumen output level and you are asking for an output level higher than the battery can maintain.

Your flashlight restricts the output to the highest brightness level the battery can maintain. However, if you turn off your flashlight and turn it back on again to a higher level, your flashlight will slowly step up through the brightness levels testing the battery again.

Your flashlight will blink slowly once a second on the lowest brightness level when the battery is no longer capable of powering any of the steady brightness levels.

**Caution:** your flashlight will eventually turn itself off to preserve what little battery power remains if you continue to use your flashlight after your flashlight begins blinking once a second on the lowest brightness level. You may turn on your flashlight again when needed for a short period. This behavior maintains your options in an emergency.

## 3. Installing a New Battery

Unscrew the battery compartment from the head and remove the old battery from the battery compartment. Insert the new battery into the battery compartment with the positive terminal out. Align the head and battery compartment, press them together to overcome the spring pressure and screw the battery compartment and head back together.

As you screw the battery compartment and head back together and if the battery compartment has been removed for an extended period, your flashlight comes on dimly for 7 seconds following a battery change to indicate that a reset has taken place and that your flashlight is functioning correctly. If you change the battery quickly enough, your flashlight will not reset and no reset indication will be displayed. A reset does not change any of your flashlight's settings.

No special actions are needed to use rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries. Your flashlight detects them automatically.

However, if you have been using rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries and want to return to using regular (non-rechargeable) batteries, you must perform a reset. The simplest way to perform a reset is to turn on your flashlight and open the battery compartment until your flashlight turns off and then replace the battery compartment. If you fail to perform a reset when returning to using non-rechargeable batteries, your flashlight will act as if the new non-rechargeable battery needs replacing – just do a reset to restore normal operation.

In general, primary (non-rechargeable) batteries provide longer runtimes. However, rechargeable batteries provide a lower cost of operation and allow you to always leave home with a full battery.

#### **4. Thermal Limits**

Your flashlight monitors the LED temperature and the external flashlight temperature to protect the LED and to prevent the exterior from becoming too hot to safely handle. If either temperature nears the safety limits, your flashlight will automatically step down to a lower power setting to control the temperature. This is typically only necessary on the maximum continuous level when Burst is disabled.

Your flashlight will automatically reset the thermal limit when it is turned off and back on again.

#### **5. Disabling the Switch**

The switch can be disabled by unscrewing the battery compartment from the head one half turn. This will leave the O-ring completely covered.

You restore operation of the switch by screwing the battery compartment completely into the head.

#### **6. Cleaning and Maintenance**

Periodically clean the open end of the battery compartment, the battery compartment threads and O-ring with a clean lint-free cloth lightly moistened with isopropyl alcohol. Apply a coat of non-conductive silicon or petroleum grease to these surfaces.

Replace the battery compartment O-ring if it becomes worn or damaged. O-ring: 1.5mm x 20.5mm, 70 durometer Nitrile (Buna-N).

The recessed electrical contacts and interior threads in the head can be cleaned using a lint-free swab lightly moistened with isopropyl alcohol. Recessed contacts and threads should be cleaned in a counter-clockwise direction to prevent snagging the swab in the threads. Be sure to remove any particles or fibers that may be left behind. Apply a coat of non-conductive silicon or petroleum grease to the interior threads and contacts.

The exterior can be cleaned with a mild soap and water. Rinse well and dry with a soft cotton cloth.

**Note:** the anti-reflective coating on the lens can be abraded by excessive rubbing or cleaning. Never use paper tissues or paper towels to clean or dry the lens as the fibers are abrasive.

## 7. Additional Notices and Cautions

**Notice:** your flashlight protects rechargeable batteries from over-discharge under most conditions. However, we still recommend rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries with built-in over-discharge protection for an added level of safety.

**Notice:** only install fully charged rechargeable batteries. Using a partially charged battery may result in the battery not being properly recognized as a rechargeable Lithium-ion battery. This can lead to the rechargeable battery being damaged due to over-discharged or sudden darkness when the battery's protection circuit activates.

**Caution:** some individuals may be sensitive to the effects of flashing lights. Be ready to render assistance if an individual should have a seizure induced by your flashing light.

**Caution:** your flashlight is very bright on the higher brightness levels. You should avoid looking directly into the reflector as the light can be intense enough to injure your eyes.

**Caution:** a sudden total failure is unlikely but is still possible. We recommend you always carry a second flashlight during critical situations (e.g., caving). We also recommend you carry enough spare batteries to cover your lighting requirements plus a reasonable safety

margin. It is not necessary to start each trip with a new battery in your flashlight as long as you have spare batteries along.

**Caution:** do not attempt to recharge a rechargeable battery if you think it has been over-discharged or otherwise damaged. Dispose of the damaged battery immediately. An over-discharged or otherwise damaged battery can vent or explode when the battery is recharged or when the battery is subsequently used.

**Caution:** water – especially salt water – in the battery compartment will cause electrolysis, giving off hydrogen and oxygen – an explosive gas mixture. Electrolysis will also cause corrosion. If water gets inside of the battery compartment, immediately open the battery compartment, rinse the battery compartment and battery with fresh water and allow your flashlight and the battery to completely dry before reassembling your flashlight.

## 8. Advanced Operation

You communicate with your flashlight through a sequence of clicks and/or a press-hold-release or a press and hold. These sequences are called **commands** and are simple and easy to learn. It will take a few minutes of practice to become proficient with them.

The term “**click**” indicates a quick press and release of the button. Think of it like a mouse click on your computer or a tap on a touch screen. The button must be released in less than 1/3 of a second to be recognized as a click. The term **double-click** indicates two clicks in rapid succession and the term **triple-click** indicates three clicks in rapid succession.

The term “**press-hold-release**” indicates that the button should be held down for an extended period – longer than 1/3 of a second – to allow your flashlight to tell the difference between a click and a press-hold-release. The term “**press and hold**” indicates that you should continue to hold the button down until you are told to release it. A click, press-hold-release and a click, press and hold represents a click followed by the press in rapid succession. There is no pause or delay between the click and the press. The same applies to double-click, press-hold-release and triple-click, press-hold-release.

Please refer to *Customizing Your Flashlight* in section 9 for detailed instructions on customizing your flashlight.



**Note:** your flashlight uses Burst whenever you select the Maximum brightness setting. The output is reduced by one brightness level – to the one-hour output level – 40 seconds after the button is released to maximize battery runtimes with minimal visual impact. Maximum output is always used for as long as the button is held down. Burst may be disabled in the Option Menu.

## 9. Customizing Your Flashlight

You may customize your flashlight so you can perform common tasks more efficiently. You can customize the brightness presets through the Brightness Menu and you can customize the optional features through the Option Menu. Together these features allow you to build a specialized flashlight optimized for the tasks you perform on a regular basis – and even tasks you rarely perform. To begin the customization process, see *Enabling Customization* in section 11.

## 10. Restoring Factory Settings

Please feel free to experiment. You can always restore the original factory settings by following these steps:

- Reset your flashlight - i.e., remove the battery for 60 seconds and reinstall. Alternatively, you can turn on your flashlight, remove the battery compartment (your flashlight will turn off) and then reinstall the battery compartment without waiting. Your flashlight will light dimly for 7 seconds to indicate that a reset has taken place. You must begin the next step before your flashlight turns off.
- Press and hold the button before the dim reset indication turns off. Your flashlight will become brighter for 10 seconds and then turn off. Release the button when your flashlight turns off.
- **Note:** your flashlight will display 5 rapid flashes and no settings are changed if you release the button before your flashlight turns off.
- **Note:** your flashlight will display 10 very rapid flashes if there is insufficient power to memorize the original factory settings.

**Note:** anytime the battery is removed for an extended period (>60 seconds) your flashlight will reset. A reset by itself will not change any settings and thus there is little reason to force a reset in normal use.

## 11. Enabling Customization

Your flashlight is shipped with Customization disabled. Follow these steps to enable Customization:

- Reset your flashlight - i.e., remove the battery for 60 seconds and reinstall. Alternatively, you can turn on your flashlight, remove the battery compartment (your flashlight will turn off) and then reinstall the battery compartment without waiting. Your flashlight will light dimly for 7 seconds and turn off to indicate a reset has taken place. You have 15 seconds following the reset indication to begin the next step. After 15 seconds, you will need to start over.
- Perform a 20-click, press and hold from Off with the rotary control in the click on/off position. You don't have to count the clicks because you are allowed to enter more than 20 clicks prior to the press and hold. After the 20<sup>th</sup> click your flashlight stops turning off and on with every other click. Remember: do not pause between clicks or between the last click and the press and hold.
- Hold the button down until your flashlight turns off. Your flashlight will display a dim-to-bright sequence to indicate it is enabling Customization and then turn off. Release the button after your flashlight turns off. Customization is now enabled.
- **Note:** your flashlight will display 5 rapid flashes and Customization is not enabled if you release the button before your flashlight turns off.
- **Note:** your flashlight will display 10 very rapid flashes if there is insufficient power to memorize the setting.

We recommend you disable Customization after you finish customizing your flashlight. This allows you to hand your flashlight to anyone without fear that someone will accidentally modify your settings. See *Option Menu* item #5 in section 14.

## 12. Internal Brightness Levels

Your flashlight includes 24 internal brightness levels. These brightness levels are visually spaced so that the difference between any adjacent brightness levels will appear to be a small equal change. This visual spacing takes advantage of the logarithmic nature of your eyes to see a huge dynamic range – from very bright midday summer

scenes to dim moonlit scenes. Your flashlight can produce a range of brightness levels that spans over 10,000:1, depending on the maximum output of your flashlight. Each brightness level is separated by a ratio of roughly 1.5:1 – enough to provide a small but noticeable difference between brightness levels.

The amount of power your flashlight consumes is related to the amount of light being generated. The more light generated, the more power consumed. You can dramatically reduce the power consumption and dramatically increase the runtimes by reducing the light output by a single level at the higher output settings. And because your eyes perceive light logarithmically, you will notice only a slight difference between the two brightness levels.

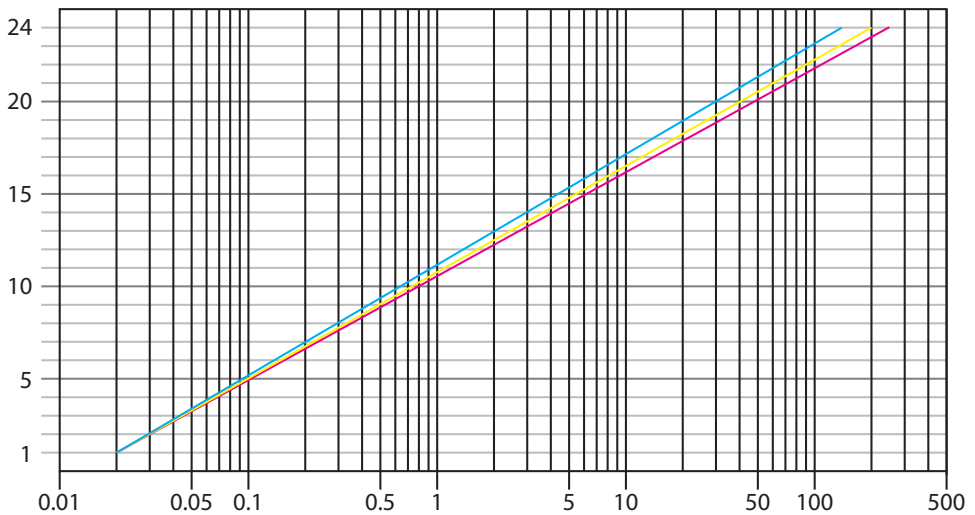
Your flashlight contains a unique feature called Burst to help extend battery life at the maximum brightness level. When you select the maximum brightness level, you receive maximum output for an additional 40 seconds after releasing the button and then your flashlight drops one level. If you are not paying attention, you may not notice the drop but your batteries will last much longer as a result. You may disable Burst in the Option Menu.

**Note:** The Burst feature is disabled during momentary Maximum operation. You will continue to receive the maximum output for as long as you hold down the button.

In addition to the 24 regular brightness levels, there are three additional light show brightness levels: Tactical Strobe (rapid flashing), Emergency Strobe (slow flashing) and SOS (46CFR161.013-7 compliant). Tactical Strobe runs at brightness level 24, Emergency Strobe runs a brightness level 23 and SOS runs at brightness level 22.

The brightness levels are arranged in a circular menu to make scrolling through all of the brightness levels easier. The maximum brightness level is followed by the Rotary brightness level, Tactical Strobe, Emergency Strobe, SOS and then the minimum brightness level, and vice versa.

The following graph allows you to determine the brightness of each level. Draw a straight line between level 1 at 0.02 lumens and level 24 at the maximum brightness. Lines have been provided for 140, 200 and 250 lumens for your convenience.



### 13. Customizing the Brightness Presets

Your flashlight comes with 3 brightness presets. They are referred to as presets A, B and C. A is fully clock-wise against the stop and is the press and hold preset, B clock-wise away from the stop, C is the counter clock-wise half of the rotary control rotation.

Follow these steps to customize a brightness preset:

- See *Enabling Customization* in section 11 to enable customization.
- Turn on your flashlight with the rotary control in the click on/off position. Then select the preset you want to customize using the rotary control.
- Double-click, press-hold-release. Your flashlight will display the current brightness level. If the current brightness level is the minimum or maximum level, the displayed level will start with a double-blink.
- Click to move to the next brightness level. Double-click to reverse direction and move to the previous brightness level. The menu is circular – the last item is followed by the first and the first is preceded by the last. When you get to the minimum or maximum level, the displayed level will start with a double-blink.
- **Note:** the rotary brightness level is only available in preset C and does not appear in the brightness menu for presets A and B.

- Press and hold the button to select the current brightness level. Your flashlight will display a dim-to-bright sequence to indicate you are setting the brightness level. Release the button after your flashlight turns off and your flashlight will return to the selected preset with the newly selected brightness level.
- **Note:** your flashlight will exit the Brightness Menu with 5 rapid flashes without changing the preset if an error is detected. Possible errors include entering an unknown command, not entering a command for 10 seconds and not holding the button down until your flashlight turns off when selecting a brightness level.
- **Note:** your flashlight will exit the Brightness Menu with 10 very rapid flashes if there is insufficient power to memorize the setting.

## 14. Customizing Optional Features

Your flashlight offers the following features through the Option Menu:

1. Automatic Turn Off – indicated by <bright-to-dim ramp>
2. Locator Flash – indicated by <dim flash>
3. Pseudo Momentary – indicated by <long flash, short flash>
4. Burst – indicated by <brighter-dimmer>
5. Customization – indicated by <dim-to-bright ramp>

Follow these steps to enable or disable an optional feature from the Option Menu:

- See *Enabling Customization* in section 11 to enable customization.
- Turn on your flashlight with the rotary control in the click on/off position.
- Triple-click, press-hold-release. Your flashlight will display the indication for the first menu item (Automatic Turn Off – indicated by <bright-to-dim ramp>).
- Click to move to the next menu item. Double-click to reverse direction and move to the previous menu item. The menu is circular – the last item is followed by the first and the first is preceded by the last.

- Press and hold the button to select the current menu item. Your flashlight will display a dim-to-bright sequence to indicate you are enabling the feature or a bright-to-dim sequence to indicate you are disabling the feature. Release the button after your flashlight turns off and your flashlight will return to the selected preset brightness level.
- **Note:** your flashlight will exit the Option Menu with 5 rapid flashes without changing the setting if an error is detected. Possible errors include entering an unknown command, not entering a command for 10 seconds and not holding the button down until your flashlight turns off when selecting a setting.
- **Note:** your flashlight will exit the Option Menu with 10 very rapid flashes if there is insufficient power to memorize the setting.

## **Option Menu Item #1**

### **Automatic Turn Off – <bright-to-dim-ramp>**

The Automatic Turn Off feature allows your flashlight to turn itself off after 10 minutes of inactivity. This can be handy if you carry your flashlight in your pocket and it gets accidentally turned on or if you fall asleep with your flashlight turned on.

Your flashlight will turn off gradually, dimming one brightness level each second. When the minimum brightness level has been reached, your flashlight will blink slowly 10 times and then turn off. You can click the button at any time during the sequence to return your flashlight to the original brightness level and to reset the Automatic Turn Off timer for another 10 minutes.

## **Option Menu Item #2**

### **Locator Flash – <dim flash>**

The Locator Flash feature allows your flashlight to emit a short flash of dim light every three seconds when turned off. The periodic short flash makes it easier to find your flashlight in the dark. Enabling the Locator Flash turns on the Locator Flash following a reset. Disabling the Locator Flash turns off the Locator Flash following a reset.

The Locator Flash may be toggled on and off using a quad-click when your flashlight is turned off and the rotary control is set to the click on/off position.

### **Option Menu Item #3**

#### **Pseudo Momentary – <long flash, short flash>**

The Pseudo Momentary feature allows your flashlight to differentiate between a click and a press and hold when your flashlight is turned off and the rotary control is set to the click on/off position. A press and hold from off will act in a momentary fashion when Pseudo Momentary is enabled – i.e., turning off your flashlight when the button is released. A press and hold from off acts like a click – i.e., your flashlight remains on – when the button is released when Pseudo Momentary is disabled.

### **Option Menu Item #4**

#### **Burst – <brighter-dimmer>**

The Burst feature allows you to control the behavior of the maximum level to conserve power and extend runtimes. Your flashlight will drop by one level 40 seconds after the button has been released when Burst is enabled. Maximum always stays at full power for as long as the button is held down.

**Note:** the runtime on the maximum level will be reduced to roughly 30 minutes when Burst is disabled. You will also notice that your flashlight becomes quite warm on the maximum setting and may automatically reduce power due to thermal limiting. This is normal.

### **Option Menu Item #5**

#### **Customization – <dim-to-bright-ramp>**

The Customization feature allows you to control access to the Brightness Menu and Option Menu commands. This menu item can only be used to disable Customization. See *Enabling Customization* in section 11 to enable customization.

## **15. Warranty**

Your flashlight (Product) is warranted to the original owner to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the life of Product. This warranty does not include cosmetic blemishes, damage, modifications and normal wear. We will repair Product, replace Product with an equivalent product or refund the original purchase price for the defective Product – at our discretion. You are solely responsible for determining Product's suitability for your application and you take sole

responsibility for Product's use. In no case shall HDS Systems, Inc. be liable for more than the original retail price of Product.

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Specifications subject to change without notice.



## Notes

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