

Technical Tip 163 – Inspection lights

Many of us have permanent scars on our hands from lead lights using incandescent bulbs that become red hot. Apart from personal disfigurement they can become electrically dangerous. Many a worker has had a serious electric shock because of frayed or damaged cables. Most of us have converted from bulbs to mini fluorescent tubes or diodes but most still need 220/250 volts to operate. It is recommended any portable device like lead lights etc should be backed-up by an appropriate earth leakage unit. Most houses are fitted with earth leakage units on the main board, however, be warned, they are only set to safe one from electrocution and trip at about 15/20 milliamp which before tripping will cure your constipation.

To overcome these hazards a new product has entered the market, new to me that is, and that is a cordless portable light with rechargeable batteries. I was reluctant to buy one as I already have so many lead lights however a friend feeling sorry for me bought one for me. It has turned out to be the star in the tool box and I doubt if I'll ever use the old lights again. Incidentally it's ideal for keeping at hand for power outages.

The battery lasts approximately eight hours between recharging. The light is extremely bright (too bright in fact) but has a dimming adjustment. There is a magnet in the base to attach it so the light can be directed on where you are working.

