

NIMH BATTERY INFORMATION

How many times can you recharge NiMH Batteries?

Typically, we expect 2000 charge/discharge cycles out of a standard NiMH battery, although, your mileage may vary. This is due to the fact that each battery is not identical. The usage of the battery may also dictate the number of cycles the battery will survive. All in all, 2000 (or thereabouts) cycles from a battery is quite substantial for a rechargeable cell!

Charging Considerations for NiMH Batteries?

There are a couple of considerations that you should bear in mind to protect your battery's lifespan:

- Trickle Charging is the safest method you can charge your battery. To do so, ensure you are charging at the lowest possible rate that will keep your overall charge time BELOW 20 hours and remove your battery at that point. This method will essentially be charging your battery at a rate that will not overcharge your battery but keep it topped up.
- **Do not** overcharge NiMH batteries. Put simply, this means that once the battery is fully charged you stop charging it. There are a few ways to know when your battery will be fully charged, but it's best to let your battery charger handle it. Newer battery chargers are "Smart" and can detect small changes in the Voltage/Temperature of the battery that will indicate a fully charged cell.



Memory of NiMH Batteries?

Originally, there were widespread problems with Nickel based batteries and memory. Essentially, if you didn't fully deplete your battery before charging it, you would lose a part of the capacity of your battery. Over time, this would render your battery a big chemical filled paper weight. The NiMH batteries we see today do not have these problems, although if you aren't fully discharging your battery every use you can still see the same effect taking place. Newer NiMHs can be restored by "exercising" the battery (fully charging and discharging the battery a few times).