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KOGAN UNIVERSAL POWER BANK

All the charging, all the time

A stylish slab of aluminium, the Kogan power bank has a massive 20,000 mAh capacity. While it does handle USB charging (though only has a single USB port), it can also output 12V, 16V and 19V to run a variety of devices. Juicing up a laptop is the obvious choice, but the Kogan could also run a modem during a blackout (for 24+ hours). It's worth noting that it's rated to 3.5 amps and if we tried to charge a laptop that drew more, the power bank would shut down. The solution is to charge the laptop switched off.

Price: \$85

URL: www.kogan.com

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GUIDE 10 PLUS RECHARGER

The most versatile option

Instead of sealed lithium ion batteries, the Guide 10 uses four 2300 mAh AA batteries. It can be charged via USB or an optional solar panel, and charge up extra spare batteries. Then make use of the Guide 10's USB port to charge your phone. So total theoretical capacity of this charger is, well, infinite.

Price: \$49.99, www.goalzero.com

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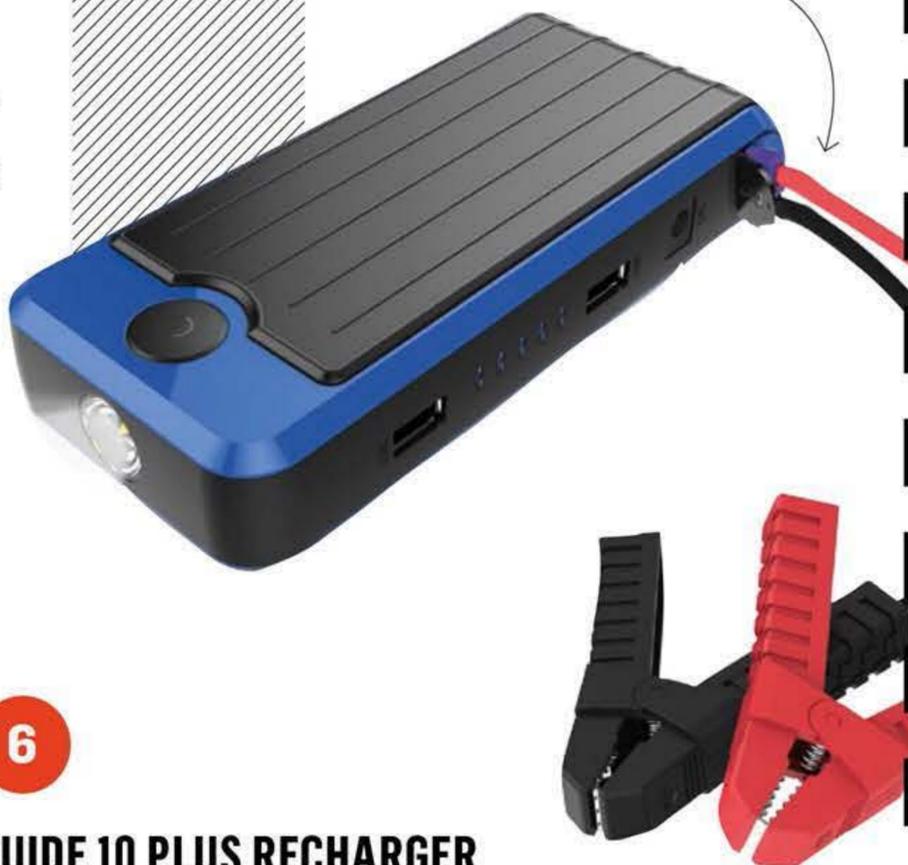
OZ CHARGE OC-JSP16

First the phone... then the car

Keeping a power bank in the car for emergencies is a good call, but the OC-JSP16 takes it a step further. A port on the side enables heavy duty alligator clips. These feed out 12V and the power bank has enough current to jump start a car – 600 cranking amps. We disconnected our battery to test and were suitably impressed – the car started easily first go. It can also run other 12V devices, such as electric trolling motors or a camp fridge. It also comes with iPhone and Micro USB adaptors as well as both a 240V and 12V car charger. Surprisingly, it's not much bigger than a large book and only weighs 480g.

Price: \$229

www.ozcharge.com.au



Repurpose: three hacks for power packs



LED LIGHTS

Custom build a torch with a huge range of USB LED lights. Gooseneck models for reading to spotlights for camping. There are even touch-controlled, variable brightness mini USB LED modules for as little as \$1 on eBay.



YOUR BIGGEST FAN

Want to keep cool? There are a range of USB powered fans that are surprisingly effective. A typical model draws around 100 mA and would run for 40+ hours on the P-Mega. Or grab a mini USB vacuum cleaner for tiny on the spot cleaning.



USB BUCK CONVERTER

Power banks are great, but sometimes a project demands a custom voltage. Grab a USB cable and a buck converter and step up or step down the 5V to just about any voltage. Power speakers, run Christmas lights or just experiment.