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Streamlight's WEDGE SL: Slim. Simple. Superior.

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In the competitive landscape of everyday carry (EDC) lighting, few brands command the same respect for durability and pragmatic design as Streamlight. Known for equipping law enforcement and first responders, the company recently expanded its ultra-thin "flat light" family with the Streamlight Wedge SL. While the original

Wedge, introduced in 2021, was a powerhouse of a slider-switch light, the SL (Slim) variant represents a pivot toward precision, portability, and specialized professional applications—specifically in fields like medical inspection and technical maintenance.



Measuring just 0.28 inches thick, the Wedge SL is a masterclass in low-profile engineering. It isn't just a "thin" light; it is a dedicated inspection tool that bridges the

gap between a bulky tactical light and a flimsy penlight.

The Wedge SL delivers a balanced output profile that prioritizes usable light over "spec-sheet" vanity. It features three distinct output levels, including Streamlight's proprietary THRO™ (Temporarily Heightened Regulated Output) technology.

THRO™ Mode is the light's "turbo" mode. It produces a 500-lumen burst with 1,600 candela, reaching out to 80 meters. It is designed for short-term situational awareness—checking the far end of a dark corridor or identifying a distant object.

High Mode (100 Lumens) is the factory default for constant-on operation. This is the "workhorse" setting, providing a clear, 35-meter beam for 1.75 hours.

Low Mode (50 Lumens) is optimized for up-close work, this mode extends runtime to 3.5 hours while providing enough illumination for navigation or detailed tasks without washing out the subject, and suitable for testing pupillary response.

The beam quality is particularly noteworthy. The Wedge SL uses an unbreakable acrylic lens to produce a smooth, consistent flood. This is critical for inspection work, where shadows or uneven lighting can hide vital details.

One of the most significant upgrades in the Wedge SL is the inclusion of Ten-Tap® Programming. Streamlight recognizes that a mechanic, a police officer, and a physician all

have unique needs when they click a button, and the Ten-Tap system allows the user to choose between two primary programs:

1. High / Low / THRO™ (Factory Default)
2. Low / High / THRO™

To change the programming, you rapidly tap the tail switch nine times and hold it on the tenth. The light will flash to confirm the change. For a medical professional who needs to avoid blinding a patient, being able to program the light to always start on the 50-lumen Low mode is a game-changer. Conversely, a security professional might prefer the 100-lumen High mode as their first click.

While many flashlights are marketed for "tactical" use, the Wedge SL is uniquely suited for clinical and diagnostic environments.

Some of the Wedge SL's features that I feel make this light an excellent medical response tool:

1. **The Ergonomics of a Tongue Depressor:** Its flat, ultra-thin profile allows it to be held between the fingers similarly to a tongue depressor or a dental mirror. This provides far more dexterity than a round, tube-style light.
2. **Deep-Carry Discretion:** The stainless-steel pocket clip is designed for "deep carry," meaning the light disappears into a lab coat or scrub pocket. At only 1.14 ounces, it does

not sag the fabric or create a bulky silhouette.

3. **Cleanability:** The anodized aluminum unibody construction is smooth and lacks the deep "knurling" found on tactical lights, which often traps dirt and pathogens. The Wedge SL is easy to wipe down with isopropyl alcohol or disinfectant wipes.
4. **Controlled Output:** The 50-lumen low mode is bright enough for a physical exam or checking pupil response (though it is not a dedicated pupillary penlight) without the overwhelming glare of a 1,000-lumen tactical light.

USB-C Rechargeability and Battery Management



Modern professionals no longer want to hunt for AAA batteries. The Wedge SL is powered by an integrated 380 mAh lithium polymer battery, making it entirely self-contained.

The light features a USB-C port located at the side. Unlike older micro-USB ports, the USB-C is robust and allows for "plug-and-play" convenience with most modern phone chargers.



Adjacent to the port is a four-level LED status indicator. While many lights use a simple red/green light, the Wedge SL provides more granularity:

- 4 Solid LEDs: 75% – 100% charged.
- 3 Solid LEDs: 50% – 75%.
- 2 Solid LEDs: 25% – 50%.
- 1 Solid LED: 10% – 25%.
- 1 Flashing LED: Less than 10% (Time to charge).

Charge Time from a completely depleted state takes approximately 4 hours to reach a full charge. While this is longer than some "fast charge" devices, it is optimized to preserve the long-term health of the lithium polymer cell, ensuring the light remains in your kit for years.

The Wedge SL gets my strongest recommendation as a specialized tool for the modern kit. The Streamlight Wedge SL is not just another flashlight; it is a refined piece of professional equipment. By moving away from the "lumen wars" and focusing on form factor, beam quality, and user

programmability, Streamlight has created the ultimate inspection light.

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Manufacturer Specifications

- High Lumens: 500
- Run Time: 1.75 hours
- Beam Distance: 80 meters
- Max Candela: 1,600
- Battery Type: Lithium Polymer Cell
- Battery Quantity: 1
- Length: 5.65 inches (14.35 centimeters)
- Weight: 1.14 ounces (32.32 grams)
- Colors: Black, Coyote, Silver