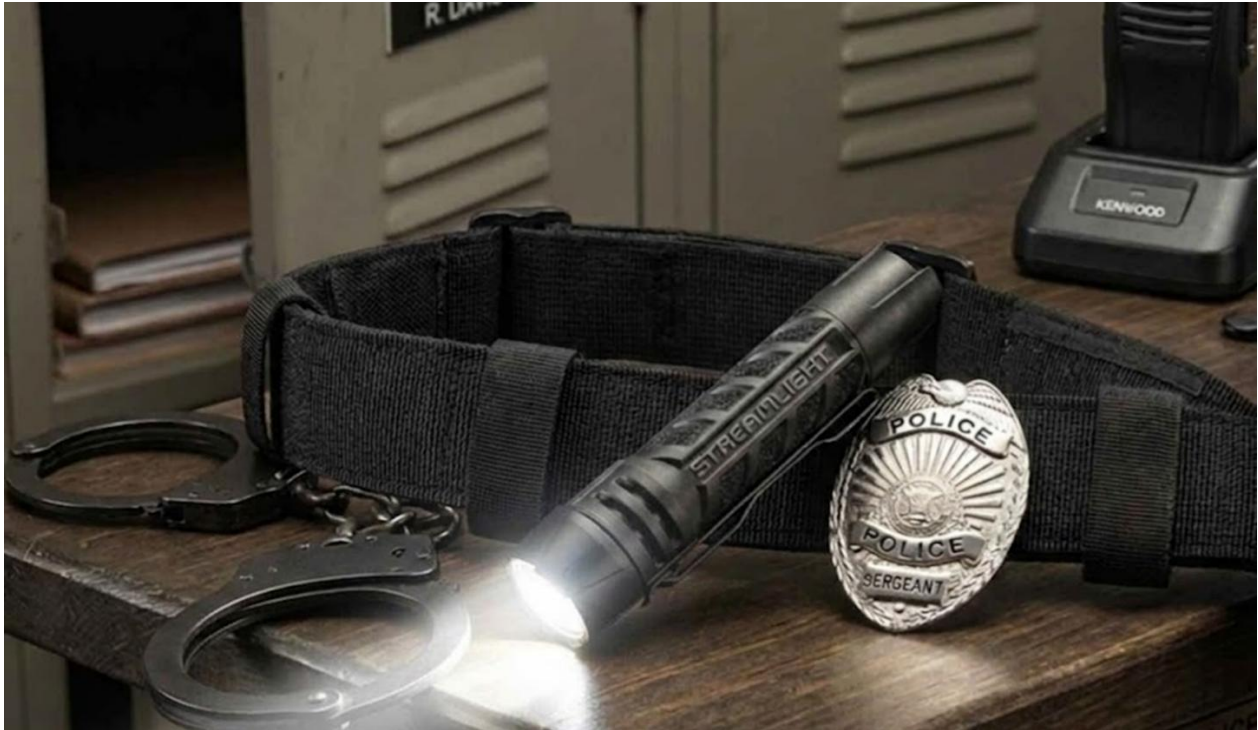




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STREAMLIGHT'S POLYTAC 1X USB TACTICAL FLASHLIGHT

The Streamlight POLYTAC 1X USB - a compact, durable EDC flashlight that will not weigh down your pockets or your wallet.

By: Sal Palma



Streamlight has always been known for building lighting tools that can take a beating and the POLYTAC 1X USB, introduced at Shot Show 2025, proves that tactical-grade toughness can come in a powerful and lightweight polymer package.

In tactical lighting, the demands of law enforcement (LE) and military personnel are absolute. A flashlight is not merely a convenience; it is an essential piece of safety equipment, a tool for non-lethal force projection, an aid for positive target identification, and a potential life-saving device. For decades, the industry has experienced a push-and-pull between raw output, structural durability, power

management, and dimensional portability. Tactical operators have often been forced to compromise, choosing between bulky, high-output aluminum searchlights or ultra-compact EDC illumination tools that lack the throw and resilience needed for duty use.

The introduction of the Streamlight POLYTAC 1X USB is a calculated engineering response to these exact frontline demands. Driven explicitly by military requirements for a single-cell, multi-fuel illumination tool that cuts down on bulk without sacrificing tactical performance, the POLYTAC 1X USB redefines what a professional-grade polymer light can achieve. Constructed from high-impact, super-tough nylon polymer with Streamlight's signature Rocky Stipple texture, this light measures just 4.71 inches in length and weighs approximately three ounces. Yet, it manages to blast out an intense 18,000 candela and 500 lumens when powered by its native, USB-C rechargeable SL-B9 lithium-ion battery pack. Crucially for harsh environments, its single-cell bay features a genuine multi-fuel design capable of accepting the SL-B9, a standard CR123A lithium battery, or a universally available AA alkaline/lithium battery. Combined with customizable TEN-TAP® programming and a deep-carry, two-way pocket clip, the POLYTAC 1X USB proves itself as an indispensable mission-ready lighting tool.

This review evaluates the POLYTAC 1X USB through the specific, uncompromising lens of law enforcement and military applications

to help you answer the question: “does it deserve a spot on my duty belt, plate carrier, or uniform pocket.



In both tactical operations and daily patrol shifts, real estate on personnel is at a premium. Body armor, load-bearing vests, duty belts, medical kits, and primary/secondary weapon systems compete for every square inch of space. A tactical flashlight that is too long or overly wide becomes a liability, snagging on seatbelts, interfering with rifle slings, or causing physical discomfort during extended vehicular patrols.

Physical Specifications Table

Dimension	Measurement (Imperial)	Measurement (Metric)
Total Length	4.71 inches	11.96 cm
Body Barrel Diameter	1.00 inch	2.54 cm
Bezel/Head Diameter	1.22 inches	3.10 cm

Dimension	Measurement (Imperial)	Measurement (Metric)
Major Diameter (Max width)	1.35 inches	3.43 cm

At under 5 inches in total length, the POLYTAC 1X USB comfortably fits into standard uniform pockets, Molle-compatible admin pouches, or compact belt holsters. The 1.00-inch body diameter is a crucial engineering decision: it ensures seamless compatibility with the massive offerings of aftermarket tactical accessories, including standard 1-inch weapon mounts, ring mounts, and pocket retention clips such as Thyrn SwitchBack systems.



The 1.22-inch head diameter provides enough surface area for a highly efficient smooth parabolic reflector without creating a top-heavy, unwieldy silhouette. For military personnel operating in tight environments like armored personnel

carriers, urban breaching contexts, or dense vegetation, the minimized external profile dramatically reduces the risk of accidental equipment entanglement. For law enforcement officers, it translates to an unobtrusive daily carry tool that provides elite performance without adding to the physical fatigue caused by heavy duty rigs.



The POLYTAC 1X USB features a specially engineered, removable two-way pocket clip that optimizes both retention and concealment. The clip is designed to allow the light to sit exceptionally low in the pocket.

When clipped bezel-down in a standard trouser or uniform cargo pocket, only the absolute minimum profile of the tail-cap assembly is visible. This near-flush seating ensures that the light blends seamlessly into

plainclothes or casual attire, making it an excellent choice for investigators, federal agents, and undercover operators.

The tension of the high-tensile spring steel clip is tuned precisely for heavy-duty textiles, such as ripstop nylon, Cordura, or standard issue denim. It grips tightly enough to resist being dislodged during dynamic physical activities; yet yields cleanly when a deliberate upward draw stroke is initiated.



There is sufficient friction in the two-way clip to allow the light to be quickly slipped onto the brim of a patrol cap. This turns the handheld flashlight into an impromptu headlamp or forward-facing task light, freeing up both hands for weapon manipulation, evidence processing, or administering tactical combat casualty care.

The POLYTAC 1X USB utilizes Streamlight's proprietary TEN-TAP® programmable tail switch to provide a user-friendly interface for the operator to select their preferred mode.

The physical interface is a rubber push-button located on the tail cap. It offers clean, tactile feedback that supports both momentary action and constant-on. By tapping the switch rapidly nine times and holding on the tenth, users can cycle through three distinct illumination outputs:

1. High / Strobe / Low (Factory Default) Single tap for High, rapid double tap for Strobe, rapid triple tap for Low.
2. High Only Operation: Any press or click, results exclusively in 500 lumens of high-candela light. This is the preferred setting for defensive or combat roles.
3. Low / High Operation: Single tap for a low 40-lumen beam; click again for High. This is an excellent choice for administrative tasks, like reading maps.

The construction of the POLYTAC 1X USB centers on a high-impact, super-tough nylon polymer chassis that intentionally rejects the heavy, heat-retaining nature of traditional aerospace aluminum. Its engineered polymer serves as an excellent thermal insulator, remaining comfortable to hold during extended high-output runs that would otherwise be quite hot. Structurally, the polymer is designed to take the impact, of a 3-meter drop Streamlight seals the

entire assembly to an IPX7 waterproof rating, ensuring it survives submersion in up to 1 meter for 30 minutes. To guarantee a secure grip under stress, the midsection features an aggressive, rocky stipple texture modeled after modern pistol frames, providing a reliable tactile hold even when the light is slick with water, sweat, or oil.

The Streamlight POLYTAC 1X USB is a brilliant evolution in professional illumination design. By directly answering military demands for a single-cell, zero-bulk tactical light, Streamlight has created a tool that eliminates the weight and size penalties of traditional duty lights without demanding a compromise in ruggedness or field performance.

Key Takeaways

Unmatched Portability: The 4.71-inch length, low weight (3.03 oz), and deep-set two-way clip ensure it rides effortlessly in uniform pockets or on vests, entirely minimizing snags and physical fatigue.

Aggressive Photometry: The 18,000-candela high-punch beam provides defensive capability, vehicular tint penetration, and long-range throw required for modern tactical encounters.

Logistical Security: The multi-fuel architecture guarantees that whether you have access to a USB-C vehicle charger, a military supply room full of CR123As, or a basic pack of AA batteries, your light will remain functional.

Mission Customization: TEN-TAP® programming allows operators to completely lock the light into the exact operational mode required for their specific assignments, removing dangerous guesswork under high-stress conditions.

For law enforcement officers seeking a lightweight, high-performance daily pocket light, and for military personnel demanding a resilient, adaptable, ultra-compact backup or primary illumination tool, the Streamlight POLYTAC 1X USB represents an exceptional, mission-ready choice. It stands as an absolute standard of compact tactical illumination.

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Manufacturer Specifications

Multi-Fuel: Uses (1) SL-B9® battery pack, (1) CR123A lithium batteries, (1) AA alkaline battery or (1) AA lithium battery.

Rechargeable system includes (1) SL-B9 battery pack.

Non-rechargeable system includes (1) CR123A lithium battery and (1) AA alkaline battery.

TEN-TAP® Programming Allows the Choice of Three Programs:

1) High/Strobe/Low (Factory Default) 2) High Only 3) Low/High

Output:

High: 500 lumens; 18,000 candela; 268m beam; 1 hour (SL-B9). 350 lumens; 12,000 candela; 219m beam; 1.5 hours (CR123A). 150 lumens; 5,000 candela; 141m beam; 5 hours (AA)

Low: 40 lumens; 1,000 candela; 63m beam; 8 hours (SL-B9). 40 lumens; 1,000 candela; 63m beam; 14 hours (CR123A) (AA)

Strobe: 1.75 hours (SL-B9); 2.25 hours (CR123A); 7 hours (AA)

High-impact, super tough nylon polymer for exceptional durability and a sure grip

All openings O-ring sealed.

High-temperature, impact-resistant BOROFLOAT® glass

Multi-function, push-button tactical tail switch

High-power LED for extreme brightness

IPX7 rated design; waterproof to 1 meter for 30 minutes.

3-meter impact resistance tested

Rocky stipple grip texture for superior grip

Removable two-way pocket clip

Serialized for positive identification

TAA Compliant

Length: 4.71 in (11.96 cm); Body Diameter: 1.00 in (2.54 cm); Head Diameter: 1.22 in (3.10 cm); Major Diameter: 1.35 in (3.43 cm)

Weight: 3.03 oz (85.9g) with SL-B9 battery; 2.93 oz (83.1g) with CR123A battery; 3.20 oz (90.7g) with AA battery

Built in the USA of U.S. and Foreign Parts

Limited lifetime warranty