



## In the frame

### Busch+Müller Ixon Core 2 / IXXI Light Set

£79 approx, [bumm.de/en](http://bumm.de/en)

The Core 2 front light is designed to ensure drivers aren't dazzled, meeting German regulations. There's no flashing mode, just low, medium and high, lasting from 18 hours on low to 2.5 hours on high. At 70 lux, the high setting is sufficient for riding in the dark, although it's not as striking in daylight as those that use flash modes. The battery level indicator is intuitive but not so easy to see in very bright conditions. The light doubles up as a power bank (USB-C port). I love that the battery is replaceable. It has an expected lifetime of seven to nine years before it needs replacing.

The rear IXXI can run for up to 15 hours in a single, steady mode. Side visibility is good, backing up the claimed 320° range. A rubberised body protects against drops and the elements. The beam emitted wasn't as distinctive as others.

★ **A good choice if you don't want flashing modes. The front light puts sustainability at the forefront**



### CatEye AMPP 500S and VIS 150

£64.99, [cateyecycling.co.uk](http://cateyecycling.co.uk)

The plastic casing of the CatEye set looks a bit cheap but performance is excellent. I found it strange that the charging ports were different: USB-C at the front, micro-USB at the rear.

The front light's daytime mode lasts five hours, basic flash 60 hours. The brightest constant mode is accessible without scrolling, which is handy. Day Flash mode was the most conspicuous of all the lights. Side visibility is decent. Despite an IPX4 rating, I found the port cover a bit loose.

Side visibility of the rear was the best in the group, backing up CatEye's 360° claim. It wasn't the most striking in daylight, though it impressed at night. The mounting bracket is versatile, accommodating any kind of post or tubing. It can even be positioned horizontally.

★ **A bit plasticky but the functionality will more than satisfy those riding in both light and dark conditions**



### Oxford Ultratorch CL500 and Cube-X R25

£39.99 & £14.99, [oxfordproducts.com](http://oxfordproducts.com)

The CL500 has enough oomph to take you into dark lanes and is easy to use; I loved the scroll forward/backward option. Runtimes were all longer than claimed: 45 hours of Day Flash is impressive. I consistently got more than the claimed one hour on full beam. The digital display looks great but I found it 'dropped off' suddenly, so it's best to recharge sooner rather than later. The light is well made, feels robust and has an IPX4 rating. It doubles up as a power bank.

The compact rear COB light features both Group Ride and Daytime Hyperflash settings, running 33 and 15 hours respectively. It wasn't as striking as others but the large surface area throws out plenty of light to get you seen. Side visibility is not as good as some. The mount is shaped for round posts only.

★ **Robust lights with some nice features, as well as runtimes that are impressive**



### ★ Verdict

As be-seen lights for urban use, Exposure's stand well above the others for performance and quality. Their higher price reflects this. The front isn't sufficient to light your way in the dark, however.

The lights from CatEye, Oxford, Lezyne

and Busch+Müller are all up to riding on dark lanes, if this is a requirement. They sit close price-wise and each has its own pros and cons. I'd say identify your priorities, then buy accordingly. It could be a case of mix and match; several of these lights can be

bought separately so you could get front and rear from different manufacturers.

Pinnacle's front light is inexpensive and impresses in daylight but the rear is disappointing. So although it's the cheapest set, it may be a false economy.