



21700 rechargeable

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This post tells you everything you need to know about the 21700 battery. We'll talk about different types, features, charging, lifespans, and our recommendations for batteries and chargers.

A 21700 battery is a high capacity lithium ion rechargeable battery. Their proper name is a "21700 cell". The 21700 cell has voltage of 3.7v and has between 3000 mAh and 5100 mAh (mili-amp-hours). The 21700 is physically larger than an 18650 battery, and AA/AAA batteries.

2170s may have a voltage range between 2.5 volts and 4.2 volts, or a charging voltage of 4.2 volts, but the nominal voltage of a standard 21700 is 3.7 volts, just like the 18650s batteries.

There are two types; protected and unprotected. We absolutely recommend protected 21700 batteries. Protected 21700 batteries generally have a button top. Unprotected 21700s typically have a flat top.

21700 protected batteries have an electronic circuit. The circuit is embedded in the cell packaging (battery casing) that protects the cell from "over charge", heat or "over discharge", over current and short circuit. A 21700 protected battery is safer than an 21700 unprotected battery (less likely to overheat, burst or start on fire).

Unprotected 21700 batteries are cheaper, but we do not recommend their use. Unprotected batteries should only be used where the load/draw and charging is externally monitored and controlled. The protected batteries normally have a "button top", but check the specs to make sure.

See "Battery Recycling – How to Recycle Different Battery Types and Corroded Batteries Safely".

A 3.7v a 5100mAh 21700 stores about 3 aH to max of 5 aH. It can store about 15 to 20 watt hours. A small air conditioning unit that can cool about 9000 BTU uses about 1100 watts per hour. So it would take more than 74 of these 21700 batteries to run the air conditioner for 1 hour.

In comparison you would need three 12v 40 amp car batteries. But 74 21700 are smaller than three car batteries.

Recharge cycles vary and are limited. Think of it like a bucket. The trick is that the bucket also gets filled with other junk over time, so there is less room. As the battery is reused (recharged), the battery degrades due to oxidation and electro-chemical degradation.

This happens to any rechargeable battery such as an 18650, 21700, 26650, 14500, AA, AAA or even a car



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battery. They can only be recharged a limited number of times.

You want to select rechargeable batteries that can be recharged many times. We specifically recommend 21700's because they have the ability to be recharged 300 to as many as 2000 times.

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