



# Solar panel charge

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On-the-Go Charging: Wherever the adventure takes you, easily charge your ...

Our gear experts have been testing solar panels for well over a decade. We've tested well over 100 different portable solar chargers and best solar panels for camping to help you find the right panel for your next adventure. We hit the trails with them on backpacking trips, used them when car camping and working remotely, charged our cell phones on overnight adventures, and brought them with us while traveling by car, van, truck, train, and airplane.

Our favorite portable charger is the BigBlue SolarPowa 28. It provided consistent power, even in changing conditions. It even folds up small enough to fit in a backpack. The Jackery SolarSaga 100 proved to be the best overall solar charger for camping in our testing. It is lightweight and performs effectively in full sunlight and partial sunlight. We loved how easy it was to transport and the user-friendly design.

While these two models will fill the needs of most people, we also found the best ultra-compact models, the best charger and battery pack combos, and the most stable and efficient models in our testing. Read on to find the best option for you.

Editor's Note: Our solar charger review was updated on November 13, 2024, to give more detailed comparisons.

Of the smaller panels, the BigBlue SolarPowa 28 is the top dog of portable solar chargers. The BigBlue is impressively efficient in its charging capabilities and performed the best in all our testing of portable solar panels. This model is the fastest portable model we tested, and it delivers consistent charging even as conditions change. Whether it's cloudy or sunny, you'll get good charging capabilities from this model. It has three USB ports, which lets you keep all your electronics charging simultaneously so they're ready when you need them. And when you're ready to move on, this panel folds up small enough to fit in your backpack.

In terms of larger 100-watt solar panels, the BigBlue SolarPowa 100 ETFE is the best value around. This model costs significantly less than pretty much every other panel we tested. But that's where the differences stop because this performs almost as well as the more expensive large solar panels. It's lightweight and portable with a carry handle and foldable, ultra-portable design. You can easily load it into your car and unload it at a campsite quickly. It has fold-out legs, so you can point it directly at the sun to maximize low-angled morning and afternoon light. It comes with a variety of adapters that make it compatible with most power stations from any brand, eliminating the need to purchase additional cables or adapters. This adds to the already great value of this panel.

The SolarPowa 100 is a great solar panel for the price. It's easy to use and effective, and it comes with a



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variety of adapters, so you can charge most devices. However, it doesn't have a pocket or other storage case for those adapters or the main storage cable. We ended up transporting this with the cables wrapped around the panel, which worked but wasn't ideal. Overall, we think the SolarPowa 100 is a great, high-value option for anyone looking for a reliable and affordable solar panel. If you're seeking something that's fully waterproof with fast charging speeds, the EcoFlow 110 can do the job in a more portable package and a similar price range.

When you're adventuring outside, a fast-charging portable solar panel is key. The X-Dragon 20W quickly charges all your devices in a small, reliable package. This 20W portable solar panel isn't particularly expensive and works with reasonable speed, charging all your devices quickly. It has a high conversion rate, so this panel charges well under sunny skies and on overcast days. Each of the X-Dragon's panels generates up to three amps, which is an exceptional amount of charging capacity for any USB device. It's also lightweight and hangs up easily, making it a solid choice for quick juice-ups on the go.

The X-Dragon folds down to the size of a notebook, so it isn't the smallest portable panel out there. But it unfolds into three panels to capture an impressive amount of sunlight for its relatively small size. If you're looking for a higher-capacity backpacking solar panel, a super portable panel to charge at base camp, or simply need an affordable solar panel to harness energy from the sun, you should check out this model. Don't bypass our favorite portable solar charger, the BigBlue SolarPowa 28, which is only a few dollars more for faster charging speed and better functionality.

The FlexSolar 40W is a high-output, easy-to-use charger that can quickly unfold from the size of a large book into six linked solar panels. This medium-capacity panel has a DC output that can charge portable power stations, as well as USB-C and USB-A outputs for smaller devices. For its medium-sized capacity, it is relatively portable and folds up quite small. It doesn't use any clasps, magnets, or velcro to secure close, which makes unfolding this into a large six-panel array a cinch. And those six panels put out a lot of power, then fold away just as quickly.

While the FlexSolar 40W does fold down into a very small size, it's not the lightest panel we tested either. It weighs just shy of three pounds. That's nearly twice the weight of some other 20-30-watt panels, though less than many 50+ watt panels. There are no covers for the charging ports, so those USB and DC outputs are susceptible to dirt and debris. This hasn't been an issue for us yet, but we'll keep you posted if it does. If you're looking for a mid-sized option that can power larger devices yet still remain very portable, this is a great choice. Another option we like is the X-Dragon 20W. It's great if you're looking to go small and light, and it will save you some money.

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