

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

PNY PowerPack 10400

The biggest problem with all personal electronics is that they all need to be recharged at the least opportune times. It is double trouble when you are not near an electrical outlet and two of your personal devices both need to be recharged at the same time. This is especially true at airports.

The PNY PowerPack ID10400 is a backup charger that delivers recharging power from its internal 10,400 mAh lithium Polymer battery. Battery power is measured in milli-ampere hours (mAh). The mAh number of a portable battery tells you how much electricity the battery can deliver before it will need to be recharged. When it comes to the charging capacity of a portable battery the larger this number, the more electricity it has to recharge your devices. This is the largest mAh consumer portable power supply that I have seen to date. See photo 1.



It is designed to charge two devices at the same time. It has a 1Amp 5 Volt charging port and also a 2.4 Amp 5 Volt rapid charging port that is ideal for quickly recharging your device. When you use this USB port you won't need to have your cellphone or tablet tethered to the PowerPack for a long period of time. What really sets this battery charger apart is its charging power and its small video screen that provides real data on how many more times you can charge your devices before the PowerPack ID10400



will need to be recharged. The display also shows you how much electricity your device is drawing from the charger during the charging process. See photo 2.

If you plug your cellphone or other USB devices into the more powerful 2.4 Amp port, it will just accelerate the charging process. The reverse is also true if you plug your tablet into the 1 Amp port, it will just take longer for it to charge.

This battery is sold fully charged which makes it the perfect last minute purchase at an airport kiosk. It comes with a charging cable for you to recharge it by plugging it into your computer or your own USB wall charger. The charger weights 8.7 ounces and measures 4 1/8 X 2 7/8 X 7/8.

After you attach your charging cable you need to press the start button to start the flow of electricity to your device. You can find out more about this backup charger online at the PNY website:

<http://www.pny.com/>

Reason to Drool

The best features of this PowerPack are its digital display and how much electricity it holds. The power capacity gives you the ability to charge your tablet and smartphone more than once before the PowerPack needs to be recharged. The display gives you real information on the condition of the battery.

Not so Cool

After it has provided you with almost all of its standby power you will probably find that it will take 6 to 8 hours for it to fully recharge. PNY could also have supplied a small USB charging block for you to use to recharge the device by plugging it into a standard electrical outlet.

*Alan is co-author of **Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010** and a **TechDirections Magazine** Columnist . Visit www.technologytoday.us for past columns, reviews, and resources.*