



Battery charging

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I have some Energizer lithium AA batteries (1.5v), that work very nicely in electronics that have heavy constant usage, such as my Apple Magic Trackpad. Some time back though, I found myself with a solar power unit from an outside patio umbrella (it had built-in lights), and noticed that the batteries inside were simply 3 generic AA cell nimh batteries. Just for kicks, I decided to see what would happen if I tried recharging some of my AA Lithium batteries.

Lithium Primary batteries are not meant to be recharge. Can you physically recharge them? As you noticed, yes, but it's not a good idea. They can explode from this. To be honest, if they could be recharged, Energizer would market them like that. If they could be recharged and life expanded, they would have found a way, considering how many billions they have in funds.

A "good" battery will generally have an Open Circuit Voltage (OCV) >1.74 volts. Any battery with an OCV <1.70 (after it has been allowed to recover) is completely discharged. Although an alkaline battery may read "good" at 1.6 volts, this reading on a LiFeS₂ battery indicates the product has been discharged.

The reason the lifespan has shorten is because of the chemical reaction converting the chemicals that make up the cell as the battery drains. Simply charging it does not undue this basic chemical change.

I just got off the phone with Energizer and the guy told me Lithium batteries are not to be recharged and could leak. I have recharged my AAA's but after reading this information I will discard them. I have no idea why they exist other than perhaps shelf life. I have used every conceivable battery over the past 50 or more years. No one seems to have come up with the perfect rechargeable battery.

Lithium batteries can be recharged. They have to be recharged at such a slow rate it isn't worth it. recharging them with a standard charge will cause overheating with possible exploson or fire. The are designed for slow discharge,ideal for certain electronics. Using standard batteries where lithium is recommended is ok except they will run down faster. If you don't mind constant recharging you will be good to go. The cost effective ideals with lithium outweigh the aggrevation of constant recharge of batteries for me. I save all my old batteries and dispose of them properly.

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