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USER REPORT

Frezzi Recharges WMAR

by Tom Webster
Maintenance Engineer
WMAR

Tom Webster fits up one of the WMAR's ENG rigs with a Frezzi battery and charger.

BALTIMORE

As a maintenance engineer for 18 years at ABC affiliate WMAR in Baltimore, my primary responsibilities are small format tape maintenance, repair and direct support to more than a dozen photojournalists.

I'm fortunate to have formed solid relationships with them over the years and a feeling of mutual trust and respect has developed. Through personnel changes, broken gear, blizzards, format evolutions and occasionally having to do more with less, we are keeping it all running, day-by-day.

Recognizing each individual videographer's desire to gear up in a manner that best suits his or her style, we've always given the shooters their choice for battery power. Some went with the NP style "pancake" batteries for their light weight, while others preferred bricks for their longer life.

For a time, we re-celled generic bricks. However, two challenges became obvious: The evolution of camera power taps and on-camera mini lights created increasing power demands, along with the use of one and sometimes two wireless mic receivers. It was also clear that our generic cases were not holding up to rigorous use.

After considering our options, we chose Frezzolini batteries. We liked the variety of power choices and packaging, the versatility of charger options and the general physical durability and lifecycle of the company's batteries. The easy-to-grip coating on the battery case is also a good feature.

We originally chose the M1100 charger for its capability to charge all our battery configurations. We maintain a M2100 in the shop for its battery rescue and analyze functions, which have been proven very valuable. The power supply option has come in handy at times, also.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

In addition to Frezzi batteries and chargers, we've also had great performance from the company's intensity-controlled mini-fill lights. Now standard in the field for us, mini-fills make a quick on-the-fly interview a reality.

Though vulnerable to impact as a result of being mounted high on the camera, Frezzi's mini-fill lights are rugged and continue to perform in spite of the abuse they take. I've seen more than one come in distorted from impact but still working.

Frezzolini hasn't slacked in after-sales service and occasional phone support, either. I'd recommend it for your battery power and on-camera lighting needs.■

Tom Webster is a maintenance engineer with WMAR and can be reached at 410-377-2222. The opinions expressed above are the author's alone.

For more information. contact Frezzi at 973-427-1160 or visit www.frezzi.com.

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