# What to use so I can see the edge?
Posted by FredHermann - 31 Aug 2012 23:44

---

Forgive me if this is on another post but without investing in a microscope how do you tell what's happening with your edge? Is there a relatively cheap solution?

Many thanks!

==========

# Re: What to use so I can see the edge?
Posted by FredHermann - 02 Sep 2012 21:22

---

Right!

Note to self, scoop up old microscopes for the group.

(I find them fairly often at auctions)

No idea if they are functional though, but hey, if I can find a few, I'm happy to share.

☺

==========

# Re: What to use so I can see the edge?
Posted by PhilipPasteur - 03 Sep 2012 20:45

---

I picked up one of these:

www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2179604.

As posted by CBWX34.

I like it due to its using common AAA batteries. I also think that it provides noticeably more magnification than the 60 to 100X unit that I linked to and all of the others too. I got the other ones out and compared them directly (I have all of the units that I linked to). I think it cost just under $15 at a Radio Shack here locally after taxes. The one thing I question, and likely why it has batteries with more capacity, is the fact that it uses an incandescent lamp. That means it uses more power and is not as bright at the LED lamps. In this appplication it still gives enough light for the task, and is a bit more "floody" which can be an advantage, but I worry about replacing the bulb when it burns out. LEDs with a lifetime of around 40 to 50 K hours, likely will never have this problem in normal use. it is probably 30% larger and a bit heavier than the one from Ebay. This is proably a plus here, it is a bit easier to hold steady.

Anyway Fred, If you have a Radio Shack close to you, you can check online to see if they have one, and

you can get something fast and cheap with lots of magnification  to start checking things out. No endorsement or recommendation meant...just saying, they are available and cheap and work OK.

Phil

==========

## Re: What to use so I can see the edge?

Posted by cbwx34 - 04 Sep 2012 07:11

_____

Have used mine for over 5 years now,,,so far so good on the bulb!

I did recently get an LED one... at first the light seemed "overpowering".  But now I'm getting used to it.  Just don't know about the batteries yet.  I still seem to pick up things better with the old one... but that could just be a lack of time with the LED.

Either one should give excellent results... just take the time to get used to it.

==========