

BEFORE & AFTER Renovation success stories p. 38

March 2015

Cabin Life

YOUR GUIDE TO COTTAGE, LAKEHOME & CABIN LIVING

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PORTABLE POWER PACKS

Putting two on-the-go solar chargers to the test

When my family and I went on an off-grid fishing/camping trip in Ontario last summer, I brought my smartphone to wake myself up before sunrise (aka prime casting hour for northern pike). To keep my alarm clock juiced, I packed these two solar chargers. Here's a breakdown of each.

Emily Hare

Cobra CPP 300

What's great: Once it had a solar charge, the CPP 300 powered my Samsung Galaxy S4 battery at an impressive rate of about 1% per minute. Dual USB outputs and a built-in micro USB connector mean you can charge up to three devices at once.

What's not so great:

The output is only 3.7 volts, so the CPP 300 has limitations when it comes to charging more powerful devices. Dimensions: 6x3.65x0.75 inches Price: \$80 More info: www.cobra.com



Powermonkey Extreme 12V

What's great: This solar charging system has both 5-volt and 12-volt DC outputs, so you can power electronics that normally plug into an automotive cigarette lighter. The kit also comes with a USB charging cable, a DC connection cable and nine different tips to fit a variety of mobile device brands.

What's not so great: The kit has many pieces to keep track of, including a solar panel that is separate from the battery pack.

Dimensions: Solar panel: 6.69x3.58x0.71 inches; battery pack: 6.1x2.36x1.1 inches Price: \$200 More info: www.powertraveller.com



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THE KITCHEN CABIN

Summer or winter, day or night, weeknights or vacations, gatherings or home alone – people spend most of their time in and around the kitchen. It is the center, the core, the heart of the home and this design reflects that importance. Other areas are treated as alcoves, defined with varied ceiling heights and timber portals, which allow you to feel separate but still a part of the larger gathering space. In summer, all areas can open up and flow to the porches. Board and batten sliding, rusted metal roof, distressed foldstone, and bead-board paneling are low maintenance, historical materials.

Main level: 1,760 square feet
Total square feet: 2,070

For the architect's complete plans and pricing, please contact:

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