

## Lume Cube

**T**hese versatile lights are built like a tank yet small enough to take anywhere, and they're amazingly bright. The company says that they are built to dive into 100 feet of water, but I don't see you attempting that with your drone anytime soon! You get a pair of 3D-printed, lightweight plastic brackets. On a DJI Phantom, these brackets snap in snugly between the posts of the right and left landing gear. A 1/4-inch threaded screw at the center of each bracket allows it to be attached to the Lume Cube.

With a little playing around, you can configure the Lume Cubes to look straight ahead, straight down, or wherever you can position it on that one axis. This is great, but I found myself wishing for a ball-and-socket joint so that I could have more flexibility in lamp position. Nevertheless, the Lume Cubes performed flawlessly in flight and never lost their position. Ten separate clicks on the left button let you change the light intensity.

A cool option that you're sure to appreciate is the button with which you can use to set the strobe. You can actually set the speed of the strobe using a slider on the Lume Cube app, but we'll get to that in a bit. There are no balance issues when flying the Lume Cubes on the DJI Phantom 3 Series, and the aircraft handles the extra weight like a champ! The Phantom is built in such a way that you can add a unit only to the landing gear.

I wasn't going to stop at the Phantom 3. I knew that Lume Cube made a dual Cube GoPro mount for use with a camera and selfie stick. That's all I needed to adapt the Lume Cubes to the 3DR Solo aircraft. First, I kept the gimbal/GoPro camera installed, then I affixed an adhesive mount to the back underside of the aircraft. For balance purposes, I made sure that I could swing the extension arms back and forth, and it's a good thing that I did: Flying with dual Cubes in the back caused a tail-end shakiness that would never do for smooth video. Simply loosening the extension arm



The Lume Cube measures approximately 1 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches and yields 10 levels of light intensity and a strobing option.

of the dual mount, hinging it forward toward the middle of the aircraft, and retightening it did the trick, erasing the bad balance and illuminating a dark ground.

As previously mentioned, a cool feature for the Lume Cubes is their app, which enables Bluetooth remote control from your smartphone.

You'll be able to control the intensity as well as speed of strobing. Before you get too excited, the Bluetooth

integration does not work well when you're flying the Lume Cubes, so you'll need to set them up before you fly. Like the other units in this article, there is no remote on/off integration at this time: You turn the Lume Cubes on before you take off and turn them off when you land. Each Lume Cube retails at \$79.99. Tip: Buy both mounts that Lume Cube offers, the selfie stick GoPro mount, and the Phantom landing gear brackets. These will give you a lot of creative flexibility to try different things with different lights.



Here's a 3DR Solo dual GoPro mount, underslung using a Solo GoPro mount in place of a gimbal camera.

Phantom 3 Advanced flies Lume Cubes using their landing-gear mounts.



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