

Blue Water SAILING

September 2003

A good read

Tuck into your berth, get out your favorite book, and then the problems begin, especially if you're coming off a night watch. Turn on the light in your berth and you illuminate the whole cabin; dig out your flashlight and you have to figure out how to brace it; and a headlamp is too bright.

We recently had the opportunity to do some reading with a **Lightwedge**, one of the cleverest solutions to the problem of reading in bed (or on watch) we've seen. It's a sheet of acrylic plastic, made with a slight taper and lit by two LED lights installed in opaque plastic at one edge of the acrylic sheet. The LEDs, by virtue of the plastic being tapered, spill light onto the page, and you can read.

We tried the "marine" model, which uses red LEDs, and found that even at the lower of the two light

settings, we were able to read. But if there was an abundance of ambient light, then the higher setting was necessary.

The red lights maintained night vision, the two AA batteries that power it seemed to last forever, and there was nothing to move, attach or break, so we were pretty pleased with it. We tried it on pages bigger than the sheet of plastic, and found it still worked, but required moving the Lightwedge around as needed.

The Lightwedge gets the *BWS* seal of approval. It works properly, is simple to operate, and we liked the "gee-whiz" factor, too. Everyone wanted to try it and, after using it, wanted to buy one. Contact Lightwedge at 508-228-9334 before your next cruise or if you just don't want to keep your partner awake as you finish the last chapter.