

Stoke Voltaics' portable electric cookware review

Sometimes you just need a portable electric cookset. Maybe it's during a major power outage when everyone's huddled together over the warm glow of the family power station. Or maybe it's at a tailgate party or picnic. In my case, it's anywhere I decided to park my van over the last few months while testing two cooking systems from Stoke Voltaics.

Most portable cooksets are powered by a liquid fuel like propane. It's inexpensive and readily available in canisters of all sizes. But sometimes you'd rather not deal with an open flame, pollutants, and the noise and smell that comes with it. Stoke Voltaics' gear is powered by electricity, which can be easily supplied by a solar generator and replenished by the sun.

I tested the company's new \$219.99 Nomad Cooking System and existing \$99.99 Joule Kettle Pot. They're not cheap, but portability and convenience rarely are.

[Photo by Thomas Ricker / The Verge](#)

Let's start with the Joule which is just an electric JetBoil – the ubiquitous “flash cooking” camping stove launched two decades ago. The size, graphics, insulated sleeve, handle, and lid with integrated filter, are very very similar, right on down to the little pot's ability to act like a French press for coffee. JetBoil even sold its own Joule variant at one point, which is perhaps why Stoke Voltaic promotes Joule as

the “Kettle Pot” on its website. Joule does distinguish itself with a popcorn setting, so... take *that*, lawyers.

Each of the Joule’s three settings pull different amounts of AC power. Move the slider to “Drink” to boil water at max power before automatically shutting off unlike the flame on a JetBoil. Move it to “Eat” to slowly bring a stew up to a simmer. “Pop” varies the power to ensure nearly every kernel placed inside becomes popcorn and then automatically shuts off to conserve power.

In my testing, I was able to boil about eight ounces (240ml) of water for coffee or tea in 3 minutes and 42 seconds while consuming 28.06Wh. Slowly heating up 19 ounces (570ml) of a hearty soup to a simmer took 8 minutes and 30 seconds and used 40.2Wh, while a single serving of popcorn took 7 minutes and used 16.69Wh. So that’s about 85Wh on any given day, or over 10 days of use from a solar generator with a modest 1kWh capacity.

I like that the Drink and Pop modes shut off automatically so I can just set it and forget it, without worrying about unnecessary power usage. Eat mode can require stirring to prevent things sticking to the bottom of the stainless steel surface. Joule’s a bit bulky to wash (especially when using it as a French press) since the sink in my van is relatively shallow and I have to be extra careful with the water since it’s an electrical device.

Nevertheless, Joule is so convenient that I’ve gone days without using my induction cooktop and pan on solo tips.

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