HIGH-TECH LIGHTING

INSTALLING AN LED HEADLIGHT BULB

All headlights are not created equal; they are available in four basic light sources: incandescent, quartz halogen, HID, (high intensity discharge) and LED (light emitting diode). While some riders think that brighter headlights are better, it is actually the color temperature of the light source that gives a rider the ability to see objects at night. A whiter light gives a rider greater depth of field at night. Incandescent and quartz halogen lights have a yellow cast and HID lights have a blue beam, while high-output LEDs emit a true white light, which the closest to the color of sunlight.

LED headlights are the newest type. Their illumination ability and directional aiming is nothing short of fantastic, and they are now available for motorcycles. With this info in hand, we searched the Big Bike Parts website; they have a new H4 LED headlight bulb kit. It is a straight bolt-in replacement for pre 2013 baggers. The H4 LED headlight bulb has an electronic ballast that is mounted inside of separate high-impact housing.

The Big Bike Parts LED headlight bulb has an H4 mounting flange. The ballast has an input cable, which plugs into the factory headlight connector and an output cable that plugs into the LED bulb.

We ordered the LED headlight bulb kit (Big Bike Parts P/N 10-106, $66) and installed it in a 2010 Road King. Installing the headlight bulb was all of a 30-minute operation. The LED headlight bulb and its ballast are a straight plug-in replacement; no filing or soldering is required. Our first evening ride was a real eye-opener; the headlight's white light gave us a view that had a lot more detail of our surroundings. The LED headlight is, bar none, the best nighttime riding product we have ever experienced.

—Tom McCrea

SOURCE:
Big Bike Parts
Bigbikeparts.com

1. The bike's headlight assembly was removed from the headlight shell.

2. The factory quartz halogen headlight bulb has the same H4 mounting flange. It is removed from the headlight lens assembly by squeezing the two ends of the retaining spring and lifting it out of the rear of the headlight reflector.

3. The new LED headlight bulb fits into the bike's stock headlight lens assembly. It is retained in the same manner as the stock headlight bulb.

4. The three-prong connector on the input cable for the ballast was plugged into the connector that was originally connected to the stock headlight bulb. Two plastic wire ties were then used to secure the ballast to the inside of the headlight housing.

5. The small round connector on the ballast's output cable was connected to the cable on the new LED headlight bulb.

6. The completed LED headlight puts out a bright white light, making riding at night much safer.