

LED Light Bright

BY TRICIA SZULEWSKI

One of the best ways you can protect yourself is to abide by the “see and be seen” philosophy taught by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Besides wearing bright colors and gear with reflective qualities, you can illuminate your bike with an array of colorful aftermarket lights and reflectors, which make it easier to be seen. But actually being able to see, when it's dark, rainy, or foggy, is another, trickier matter altogether.

I recently came across a new product press release from Big Bike Parts that addresses this very issue. The company's new LED fog lights for Honda's GL 1800 Gold Wing give off a bright, white light that is low and horizontal. The 3-1/2" waterproof lights are vertically adjustable, and rubber bushings provide stable, vibration-free light. All the hardware is engineered to ensure a super-easy installation. The DOT-approved lights are easy to install, if you have the time and can turn a screwdriver, and come with an OEM-quality illuminated switch and your choice of a relay or jumper plug. The relay allows the lights to function as OEM, and turn off when the high beams are used. If the jumper plug is used, the switch turns the fog lights on and off.

Acquiring a kit for his GL 1800, my dad was more than happy to let me use his bike as our tester. It didn't take long to complete the installation of this plug-and-play setup. I was particularly impressed with the switch, which actually looks like it was manufactured at the Honda plant, and while the stock switches next to it are only visible in daylight, the Big Bike Parts switch is always illuminated, whether the fog lights are on or off.

I used to think of LED lights as being tiny, low-voltage units, and couldn't imagine them being used to light up the road. But after we installed and turned on these fog lights, I was amazed at how clean and bright they were. We were careful to adjust them downward, so as to not blind any oncoming vehicles before we finished putting all the Wing's plastic covers back. This kit draws only 1 amp (compared to a 6 amp halogen draw), and our voltmeter didn't even budge when we tested the lights. Considering the superior quality of this product and ease of installation, you won't find a better way to gain more visibility on a Gold Wing.

hard data

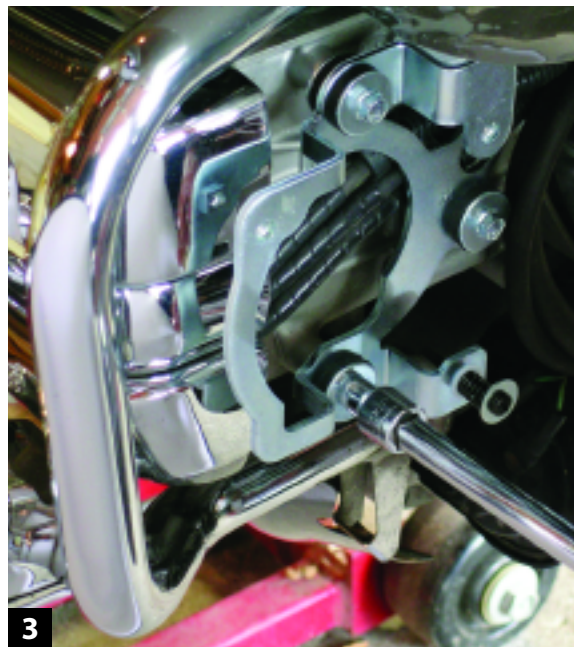
BIG BIKE PARTS
LED Lower Fog Light
Kit for Honda GL 1800
\$399.99
888/BIG-BIKE
www.BigBikeParts.com



1
The Big Bike Parts kit comes with everything you need to bolt it right on the GL 1800. The instructions include exploded diagrams that illustrate how all these parts fit together.



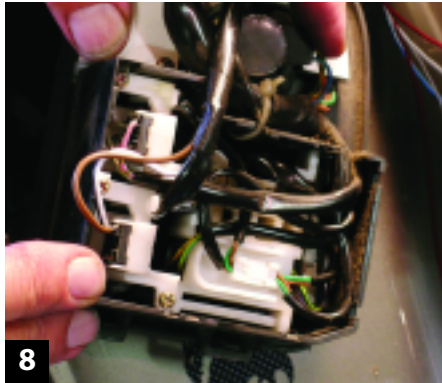
2
Once you've got the bike on the lift, battery disconnected, and front cowl removed, install the three rubber grommets on the right-side mounting bracket.



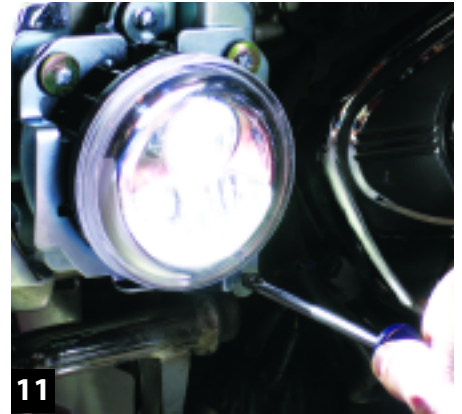
3
Install the mounting bracket to the bike using three large flange collars, washers, short 8mm flange bolts, and the short spacer.



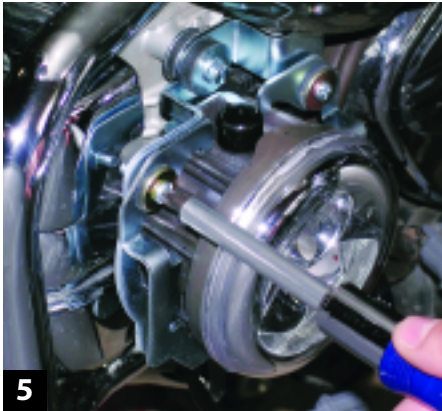
4 Install the fog lamp to the right bracket with three small Phillips head screws.



8 Moving to the left side fairing, remove the trim, control panel, and switch cover located on the back of the control panel. Remove the switch hole cover and install the new switch in it's place.



11 If the LEDs are aimed too high, you'll blind oncoming vehicles. With the bike on level ground, aimed at a wall about 16' away, measure the distance from the ground to the center of one of the fog lamps. Make a mark on the wall to that measurement. Tighten the adjuster screws on each fog lamp until they lower to that level.



5 Fit the lamp bracket onto the mounting bracket and attach it with the short flange and longer Phillips head screws.



9 Plug the four-pin switch connector into the relay harness, and plug the relay harness into the motorcycle accessory four-pin connector. The kit also comes with a jumper plug which can be used in place of the relay which makes the lights function only with the switch.



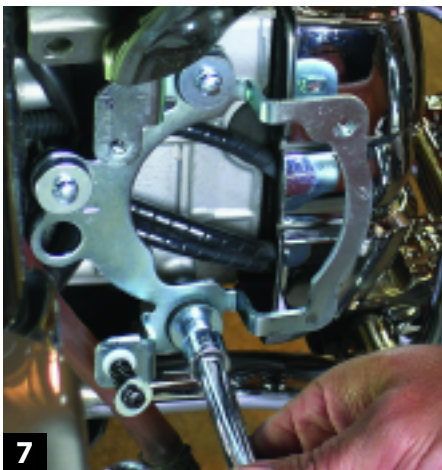
6 Unplug the plug cap from the two-pin gray connector on the bike, and plug in the fog lamp.



10 After testing the lights, reinstall the control panel. The new switch looks stock, and is illuminated whether the fog lights are on or off.



12 Once you've got the aim adjusted, reinstall the cowl and go for a ride. **RB**



7 Repeat steps 2 through 6 on the left side, using the larger spacers to install the lamp bracket.

Order RoadBike Back Issues At Greaserag.com Or Call 203/425-8777