

Rigid Industries D2 LED Lights

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BEING SEEN ON A MOTORCYCLE IS A common problem, even with high-viz gear on. If you ride at night you want to see where you are going. A set of auxiliary lights can help with both. When I bought my R1200GS, I bought one without many options. The addition of lights was definitely needed, even with the HID headlight I installed.

Black Dog Cycle Works sells three different light sets from Rigid Industries for motorcycles. Founded in 2001, Rigid Industries has been providing off road products and accessories at a great value. Customer service, as well as innovation, has always been their cornerstone. The set I installed, the D2's, is the brightest of the three. They are available as two spots, two floods, or one of each. They are rated at 28 watts, 1.94 amps and 2600 lumens, twice the lumens of the other two sets they sell. The lights are three inches square and enclosed in a black metal housing. The new D2 is the brightest compact auxiliary light available. With temperature sensing circuitry, the light unit will regulate between 80–100 percent power to prevent damage and keep the LED optimized for the environmental conditions. With no airflow, the temperature sensors will automatically dim the light roughly 10 percent, imperceptible to the eye. This temperature-sensing circuitry was developed to help protect the customer's investment.

Since they are pretty bright, a PIAA switch that can be surface-mounted next to your hand is recommended so you can turn them off for oncoming traffic. The factory switch included with the lights requires a hole be cut for installation, limiting the places to put it.

Black Dog Cycle Works also sells a set of light mounts that attach to the crash bars via one-inch clamps. With the adjustability of the mount and rotating it on the engine bar, it is possible to mount the lights anywhere on the bars you choose. I chose to mount them close to the beak to help protect the lights in case of the bike hitting the ground. I measured the distance from the beak out to the mount space. After mounting the lights, I used a yard stick across the front of them to align the D2's.

The lights and the factory harness have a nice plug to connect the lights to the rest of the wiring. Since I was using the PIAA harness, a good friend of mine soldered the plugs from the factory harness onto the PIAA harness. I ran the wires from under the seat up to the front of the bike along the frame. On the right side of the bike I removed the air intake to run the wire for the right light behind it. On the left side I ran the wire for the left light, switch and switched power wire to the front.

I used a Posi-Tap to wire into the low beam wire for the switched power wire.

Wired this way, when you leave the lights on they will only turn on after the bike is started. You can turn the key on and the parking lights will come on, but not the D2's. I mounted the switch on top of the switch pod where the factory switch would be if equipped with fog lights.

Night time adjustment was needed to get the beams low enough to light the road, not just the objects in front of the bike. After the adjustment, I made sure all the wires were not in a bind or rubbing anything that could cut them and all the mounting hardware was tight. The lights have made a big difference in my comfort while riding at night. I can see animals a lot sooner on two-lane country road. I've hit a deer in a car and that is my biggest concern with riding at night. With the extra light that goes to the sides of the bike, I have seen deer that I don't think I would have even known were there with just the headlights. Also in the month I have had these lights on, the close calls during the daytime seem to have been reduced greatly.

The Rigid Industries D2's are available from Black Dog Cycle Works. The D2 lights are \$379. The BDCW one-inch light mounts are \$59.95 for a pair. The PIAA wiring harness is \$61.95. See the full line of lights from Rigid Industries at Black Dog Cycle Works website: www.blackdogcw.com. 



View with Rigid Industries light set



View without Rigid Industries light set