Rigid Industries D2 Lights from Black Dog Cycle Works

By Bill Dragoo

Illuminate your adventures

My buddy, Eric, and I ride side by side, hustling our GS's through the Arizona night, hoping not to scare up a deer or some other beast of the forest. We push the limits of prudence with our speed in an effort to get within one day's striking distance of home – still almost 1,000 miles to the east, before bedtime. By combining our lights we can see a bit farther and more importantly, wider. I vow that if I survive this foolishness, I will never ride at night without better lighting again. Thankfully, a few fast grey jack rabbits are all that cross our path, but even they are enough to cause my heart to skip a few beats as they play chicken with my speeding TKC 80's.

We had just come from the Overland Expo in Amado, Arizona, a giant gathering of like-minded travelers who drive everything from DRZ's to all-wheel-drive Kenworths. I had watched an impromptu lighting demo there by Kurt Forget, owner of Black Dog Cycle Works. Another rider sauntered over with his bike equipped with a pair of Amber Glendas and clear Christas from Clearwater lighting. He boldly challenged Kurt with his ultra-large and considerably more expensive driving lights. If size were to matter, the relatively miniscule Rigid D2's on Kurt's BMW didn't stand a chance. Both men lined up their machines and aimed them into the desert. The challenger went first, blazing a hole in the night with his lights full on. We all looked

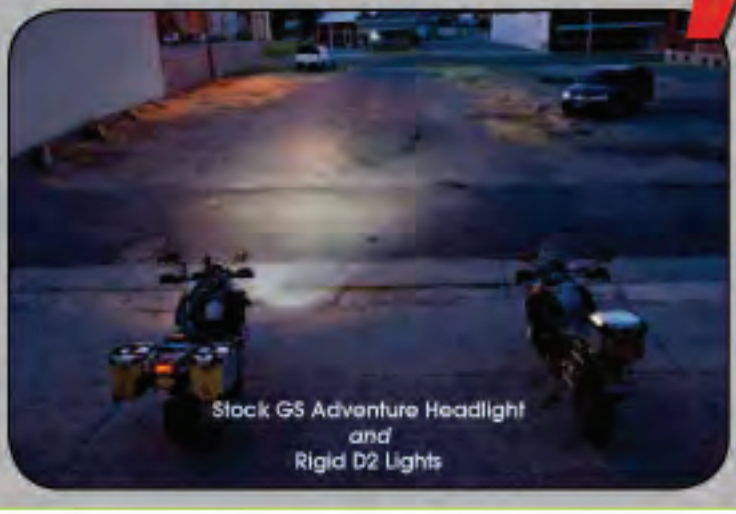
Pros:

- Rigid boasts a 93% efficiency from their reflectors vs. 72% with other popular systems.
- The D2's tough, aluminum shell is almost bomb-proof.
- 50,000 hour life expectancy vs. 2,000 with most halogen or HID lights.
- Available in clear or amber.
- 100% optically clear Lexan lenses.
- 2600 lumens output at only 28 watts per light!

Cons:

- None that I am aware of.

Rigid D2 Lights VS Stock GSA Foglights



skeptical as Kurt touched the starter on his GSA. The factory headlight came on as the engine lit, but we practically had to look directly at the source of light to know that it had joined the contest. Compared to the massive candlepower of his opponent's lights which drew 36 watts each, the factory headlight was barely a firefly.

Kurt wasn't intimidated. He pressed the switch on his Rigid D2's and the world as we knew it changed drastically. The pair of Rigid lights, each with a six-pack of ultra bright LED's embedded within their tough, waterproof, cast aluminum housing obliterated the challenger's lights, rendering the scene a bright white, far and wide. Objects appeared in the distance that were not there only moments before. Most surprising was that these lights operate on just 28 watts each!

I had been home all of two days before I ensured that my very own set of D2's were on their way. Mounting was a breeze with their well engineered and versatile aluminum mounting hardware and wiring was a no-brainer for anyone with basic electrical skills. Switch placement is only limited by one's imagination and can be wired for key-off use or to operate with the factory low or high beam. I mounted mine near the clutch lever so that extending the lever outward would activate the switch – easy to find and it can be used as a silent horn by simply tapping the clutch lever forward with an extended finger or two.

Night riding is a lot less stressful with the improved visibility provided by the Rigid D2's.

Check the Black Dog Cycle Works website for videos of the lights in use and an impressive ballistic test of their E Series lights. Impressive is an understatement! (AR)

Black Dog Cycle Works
http://www.blackdogcw.com
Sandpoint, ID

Order product here:
http://www.blackdogcw.com/product/RIGID_D2_WHT.html

Rigid D2 Lights
Retail: $379.99