

L.E.D. Bow Light Instruction Guide

Introduction: LED (light emitting diode) lights have many advantages over traditional incandescent bulbs. They consume much less energy; they are much more durable and last much longer. The following instructions will guide you through the process of getting your new lighting up and running.

1. Unlike traditional bulbs, LED bulbs are polarity sensitive, meaning they will not light up if the positive and negative wires are reversed. This is the most common reason for LED bulbs failing to light up. Sometimes the wires coming out of the light assembly are not your traditional black/red, so if you run into the problem of your light not turning on, try reversing the wires. No harm can be caused from connecting power to the light with the wires reversed.

2. You will need butt connectors and a wire crimp in order to complete the installation. It is highly recommended to use butt connectors that have the heat shrink built into them to completely seal the connection from water. The wiring for the bow light runs from the bow, through the rubrail, and comes out near the stern on either the port or starboard side. Most of the time the original wiring is still intact. If not, here are the steps of running new wire. Remove the rubber insert from the rubrail from the stern all the way to the bow on one side only. If you have a preference of which side you want the wires, remove this side, it doesn't affect the function of the light. Once this is removed, there should be a hole at the bow that runs through the rigid rubrail receiver, and up through where the bow light sits. If one or both of these holes are missing, then you need to drill new hole(s) so you can fish the wires from the rubrail, up through right under where the bow light sits. Once you have one end of the wires fished through the bow, place the remainder in the rigid rubrail receiver. You may have to tape it in various spots to hold in place while you snap the rubrail insert back into place. The wires enter back into the hull about 24" from the stern. This hole should also be present, but if not you will need to drill one. There is a stainless or chrome "clamshell" cover to conceal the hole. This clamshell cover can be found at most marine retailers.

3. Once the wires are in place, start by stripping the ends of the wires coming out of the light and also each end of the wires that are installed in the boat. Insert the stripped ends into the butt connectors and crimp tightly. Use a heat gun to shrink the sleeves of the butt connectors to ensure a good seal (a powerful blow dryer may also work). If you are not using heat shrink connectors, thoroughly wrap the connections with electrical tape. Repeat this process for the power supply end.

4. Connecting your light to a power supply - This part will vary depending on how your boat is wired. Typically, there is a fuse panel where you would connect the pos/neg to the proper terminals on your panel for bow light & stern light. This is also accompanied by an on/off switch. However, this is not needed, and there is a simple method of connecting your lighting if your boat does not have many other electronics. In this case, you will be simply connecting the pos/neg wires coming from the light to the battery, with exception of 2 components. One of these components is an in-line 12 volt fuse you can buy at any marine or auto supply retailer. This simply crimps in-line with butt connectors on the positive wire at any point between the light and the battery. This is important to protect your wiring and battery from a short. The second component is an on/off switch. You can purchase a simple on/off switch at most marine retailers. This installs in-line much the way the fuse does. It functions by connecting/disconnecting the power traveling through the positive wire. The switch should come with installation instructions, however if not, you will simply cut the positive wire wherever you want the switch, strip both ends, and connect each end to the 2 terminals on the back of the switch. Literature on this is readily available online. Please email us at sales@specialtymarine with any questions. You can now enjoy many years of reliable lighting!

Special Note: If you are having trouble getting the two holes in the bow section to line up with the square holes on the base of the bow light, which the mounting screws go through, you may need to perform one of the following two options:

1. Using a razor blade, carefully shave off several layers of the rubber rubrail insert so that the bow light can be pushed back towards the stern of the boat, repeat if necessary. The insert itself may be removed if more clearance is needed.
2. In most cases, the holes can be aligned without the need to cut away any of the rubber, but in order to apply enough force to get the holes aligned, a clamp can be used. A wooden screw clamp or a bar clamp works best. Be sure to use a rag to put between the bow light base and the clamp to protect the finish. Align one end of the clamp on front of the bow light base, and the other on the molded lip in the bow of the boat right in front of the bow Norman pin.