

Clearwater Light's Krista LEDs

By Ray Zimmerman # 3297

AT LAST YEARS INTERNATIONAL Rally in Redmond, Oregon, I encountered some new LED driving lights manufactured in the USA by Clearwater Lights. I met Glenn Stasky, the owner of the Rancho Cordova, CA based company who developed the lights out of his frustration with existing technology. The halogen lighting that he'd been using on his R1150GS was inefficient, fragile and often had a short lifespan. He developed the Kristas as a new generation of high powered LED lights ideal for on and off road motorcycles. Glenn assured me they would provide higher output with lower power consumption, long life and ample brightness for day and night use. For me, they've done all this plus provide me with increased personal safety and reliability.

Having the opportunity to test out the LED Kristas, I'll tell you that I am seen. Ask anyone who's ridden in front of me. Whether in traffic or out in the middle of nowhere in the dark, not only am I seen but my ability to see is greatly enhanced. They illuminate road signs, the sides of the road in addition to extending my range of vision forward at night. They also nicely fill in the area between my headlight and my bike giving me a full range of bright, white light.

These lights are tough and made to last. Exact assembly and quality control gives these lights advantages over others. Each light is either CNC machined or forged from billet. The internal circuit boards are bonded to an additional aluminum plate for strength and heat management. The housings are made from solid aluminum and are hard anodized and then powder coated for corrosion protection. The lens covers are tough acrylic and are easily replaced.

The unique dimming feature allows me to change brightness in a wide variety of changing road conditions. The ability to dim the lights to the desired level is important at night in traffic so that I don't blind other vehicles. On a dark country road, my

safety depends upon turning them up to their brightest level. I have riding partners who don't use their driving lights during the day because they're too bright or drain

your bike. This may be the case with animals entering the road. Whether they're in your path of travel, beside the road or in the brush or trees well off the road, you're



Top: Mounting hardware with Kristas. **Bottom Left:** Kristas illuminated on Ray's GS. **Bottom Right:** Dimmer knob as mounted on left handlebar, near mirror mount.

the battery from the power draw. On the lowest setting, a pair of Kristas use only 4 watts of power so I keep them on during the day to increase my visibility.

Aside from being dimmable, I can switch from a LOW beam to a HIGH beam with a flick of my factory high beam switch. Being LED's, they come up to full power instantly as opposed to the time it takes for HID's to gradually reach full intensity. This is a great feature if you need to quickly flood the roadway with bright light well ahead of

able to see them when these lights are brought up to full volume.

While my lights were installed at the Rally, my understanding is that they're easy to mount and install. They're shipped with the mounting brackets and bolts for your particular vehicle. The kit comes with a wiring harness, brightness control knob, fuse, connectors and full installation instructions. To learn more, check out their website at <http://www.clearwater-lights.com>. ●