

# CLEARWATER Hi TECH LIGHTS



## EXCELLENT ILLUMINATION

*By Kent Cook*

Looking for any reason to add functionality to your BMW motorcycle? Try Clearwater Lights. These extremely powerful LED driving lights provide a great safety margin, both at night and during the day. By adding a couple of extra lights spaced well away from your headlight, you can give other motorists a better visual cue for added depth perception and judging your distance and approaching speed. This can provide just enough of an edge to save your bacon in traffic. Of course, having extra bright lighting on those back roads at night will give you a much better opportunity to spot problems in time to take appropriate action to avoid them.

But Clearwater has something no one else offers, and this is very cool, they have tapped into the BMW CANbus system offering a plug-and-play module called the CANopener. The CANopener accesses the BMW CANbus via the tire pressure monitor system and offers various preprogrammed options for how your lights will operate. Some of the niftier options are adjustable day and night brightness settings. Yes, the Clearwater lights automatically dim to your settings when the CANbus determines that it is dark enough to dim your dashboard backlighting. Since the Clearwater lights are so bright, you generally don't run them full bright, even in the daytime.

Another cool feature is that you can select the program that allows the CANbus to kick the lights into full bright



whenever your headlights are on bright (even when you flash to pass). Even better, you can set them to strobe full bright when you hit the horn, adding a superb visual cue to the audio warning.

There are many other options, but if you add the Billie light, you get a programmable LED brake light addition. The Billie light is a row of large red LEDs embedded along the bottom of an aluminum license plate frame. Some of the programs you can choose from are, when braking, on bright, flashing at 4Hz (CA legal), or flashing frequency depending on deceleration. That means, they will flash faster if deceleration forces are greater.

Once you get to walking speed, they revert to acting like a normal brake light. You can even set them to operate when you decelerate with engine only. This could be useful if you regularly operate in stop and go traffic.

I have added the full kit (Darla running lights, CANo-pener, and Billie brake/tail lights) to my new R1200RS. The Darlas mounted up perfectly on the BMW aux light bar mount and looks OEM; but is much, much better than the factory offering. In the next issue of OTL, we will have an install article with plenty of photos. Until then, here are a few with the finished product. I highly recommend Clearwater Lights! 🌿