

# LUNASEE'S ACTIVE SIDE LIGHTING (ASL) 1000 SYSTEM

Hey, let's add some motorcycle safety lights...wink, wink!

Okay, fellow Wingers, I realize some of you out there right now are thinking, *Idiot, the saying goes "safety chrome", not "safety lights"!* But while that turn of phrase may work on some folks, my wife, Lyn, is way too smart for that...so I'm not even going to try to slip that by her. Safety *lights*, on the other hand, are another matter altogether. And that's how I wound up trying out Lunasee's Active Side Lighting (ASL) 1000 System.





## Why Try It?

As we all know, visibility on the road is a major key to our safety, and lights can play a big part in that visibility, especially



if they're out of the ordinary. And Lunasee's Active Side Lighting fits that bill nicely. (**NOTE:** While the system adds only a few ounces of weight to a bike's front "end", if you have a Wing with the factory airbag, the warnings in your owner's manual pertaining to your front wheel should be given *strong consideration*!)

Now GWRRA Members fall into different categories. There are those who, if they only detail their Wing once in any given week, consider themselves lazy. Then there are others who add an entirely other alternator to the engine just so they can power more lights than the bike can ordinarily handle. I, personally, fall into the latter group. I'm big into lights; our Wing has HID headlights, high beams and running lights and, now—thanks to the Lunasee ASL-1000 system—it has greater *side visibility* as well.

## How Does It Work?

So how does Lunasee's ASL work? Well, according to Lunasee.com: *The patented Lunasee Active Side Lighting system uses a specially formulated LERTape. (Light Emitting Rim) that's applied directly to each side of your wheel's rim. It's weightless and nearly invisible in daylight. As the wheels rotate, the LERTape is constantly excited by four discrete high intensity LEDpods, one each mounted on the frame or forks of the motorcycle and targeted at the LERTape. The glowing LERTape creates the visible and striking rings of light without any wires or lights actually on or in the wheels. Please note that Lunasee's LERTape and LEDpods are not ordinary components. Our fast reacting LERTape and high-powered LEDpods have been specifically designed and engineered to work together to maximize brightness and performance. Other LEDs you may already have will not work on the system. Lunasee maintains several patents on this system.*

## The Install

The system comes with detailed instructions on how to install it, but *vehicle-specific instructions* for the 1800 Wing, along with other motorcycles, can be found online.

To begin the process, I raised the front wheel off the ground, thoroughly cleaned the rim, wiped the mounting surface with the included alcohol wipes and applied the tape. Affixing the tape was made easier by using the optional application tool—which has a tab that slides along the inner surface of the rim, putting the tape on the bead surface of the wheel with consistent spacing. The tool worked fairly well, but it was necessary to do part of the wheel by hand when I got to the wheel weights.

The front fender needed to be removed to install the "LEDpods" and mounting brackets. Following the online instructions, I bent the brackets as shown and installed them on the lower bolts for the front fender brackets. (The center of the pod needs to face the tape with a gap of 1/4" to 1". The closer, the brighter.)

Doing the front wheel is easier than the rear. The wheel and

fork lowers move together through the range of fork travel so the pod-to-tape position is a constant. The rear of the motorcycle moves up and down in relation to the tape; the pods need to be positioned close to the three or nine o'clock points of the wheel.

Again deferring to the online directions, one is shown where and how to mount the pods using adhesive-backed brackets in combination with other supplied brackets bent to the proper alignment. An alternate method, for Wings with trailer hitches, is to use hose clamps to attach the brackets to the hitch bars. I used the latter method for my install.

## More Considerations During the Install

Keep in mind that the pods will need to be moved for tire removal and remounting. The ones on the front will remove easily by taking out the fender bracket bolts. For the rear pods, I feel the hose clamp method will make it easier to swing the pods in and out of position. U bolts were my choice in place of hose clamps (and one of the close-up photos here shows how and where they were installed). Then, all that remains is to route the wires to the control box and connect the power.

Now, our Wing has accessory handlebar-mounted switches on the right side, with the wires leading under the right fairing pocket. Since only one switch was in use, it made sense to use another as the Lunasee power source. (And, as this switch was already fused, it made the install quicker by eliminating the need to use the product-supplied switch and fuse.)

Each LED pod connects to its own terminals on the control box, requiring all four pair of wires to run to the box. Add the power and ground connections, and you're ready to button-up.

The instructions indicate the need to mount the box in a location that is "generally dry". For a product intended for use on motorcycles, that may appeal more to the sport bike riders. After all, they have limited spaces to tuck something in where it will be dry; one would think the control box would be more moisture-resistant.

Anyway, after wiring up the box, I placed it inside the plastic bag it came in and wrapped a cable tie around the bag where the wires exit, positioning it with the opening down in hopes of preventing water damage.

## The Test Ride—and Conclusion

Waiting until after dark, it was time for a test ride. On one side, I disconnected the running light for comparison viewing. I did so because, as mentioned earlier, our Wing has HID running lights—and one might think them so bright as to wash out the ASL rim lights.

Then I headed to a shopping center with lots of glass in front of the stores so I could see the wheels reflecting off the windows. The effect was the same as seen in the YouTube videos I had watched earlier about Lunasee. And, much to my surprise, the side with the working running light was just as visible as the side without the working running light! (Perhaps the intensity of the HID bulb was exciting the LERTape, making it bright enough to overcome being washed out.)

My conclusion is that some Wingers will love these, others will not. But one thing is for certain, they *do* improve the night-time visibility of a motorcycle when they are in use! So if you think you may like them, why not add some motorcycle safety lights...wink, wink!

By Bill McIlrath, of Bethel, Connecticut