

More Light For Your Followers

By Fin Korhonen
Photos by Tricia Szulewski

EVER NOTICE HOW MINIMAL THE REAR lighting on your bike is? Wouldn't it be nice to increase your rear running lighting so that you're easier to see in low-visibility conditions? The folks at The Electrical Connection have made it easy as pie. They've come up with a way to use your existing turn signals to add the extra lighting we all could use.

The rear turn signals are "dead" lights, until you signal for a turn or activate them as emergency flashers. When you turn them off, their usefulness comes to an end. The Electrical Connection's kit turns those amber-lensed lights into red running lights and brake lights, while retaining their amber turn signal function when needed. This is done without replacing the amber lenses. Sound impossible? That's what I thought until I saw the kit. (There are two versions to fit most cruisers.)

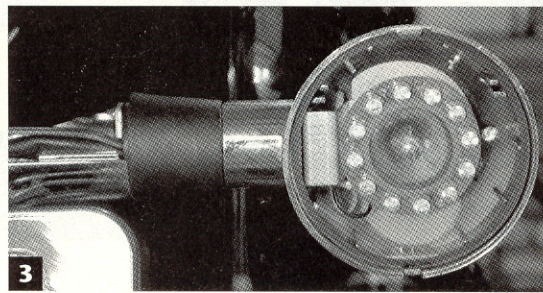
The installation process is straightforward and relatively simple. Some knowledge of electrical systems is, of course, helpful when you make any modifications to your lighting system. But the instructions that come with the kit, along with your trusty, dogeared owner's manual, make the process a cinch.

Start by disconnecting the battery (the first step in any electrical work). Locate the harness that goes to your rear fender, and trace the wires for the rear running light, brake light, and both rear turn signals. You will need to remove the rear turn signal lenses, cover, and bulbs. The taillight housing also has to come off to access the wiring.

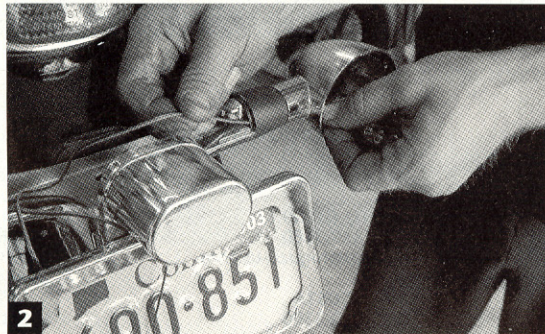
Other than that, the install requires little in the way of disassembly. And there are no visible alterations to the bike, as all the components fit inside the turn signal housings. Check it out.



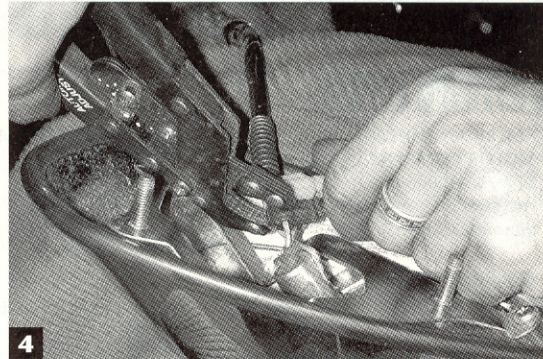
1 This is The Electrical Connection's rear turn signal conversion kit. Simple as it looks, it works very well.



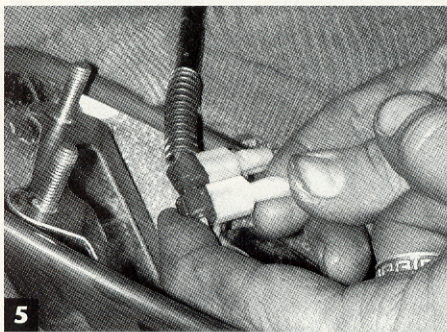
3 This is what the LED ring should look like once it's installed in the turn signal housing. Be careful with these parts, as they can be fragile.



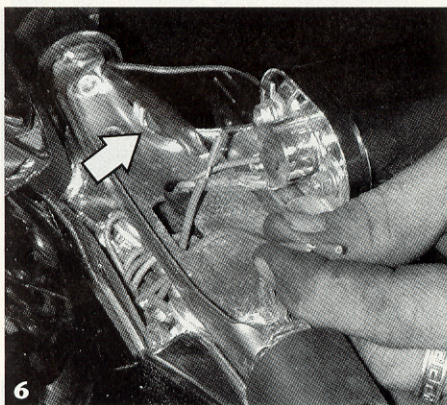
2 Once you have all the components out of the way, start by routing the wires from the LED rings through the turn signal stalks. Take your time. It's a tight fit, but the wires will fit through.



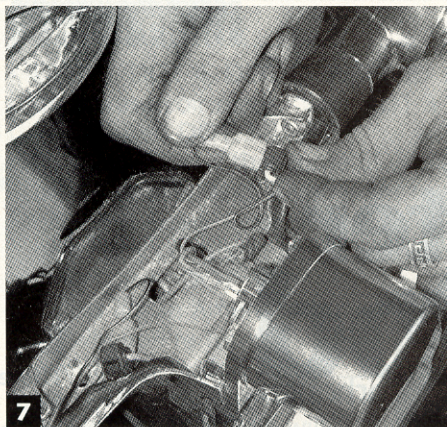
4 Attach the supplied wire connectors to the taillight and brake light wires. Refer to your manual to make sure you get the right wires.



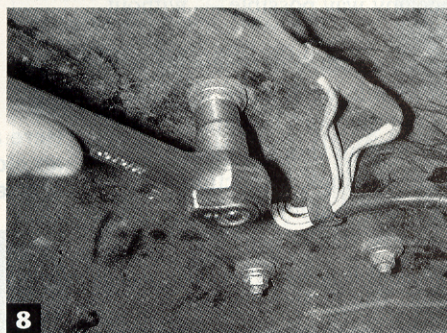
5 Using the supplied connectors, connect the appropriate wires on the two supplied, short wiring harnesses to the wires in the taillight. The red wires get routed back to the turn signals.



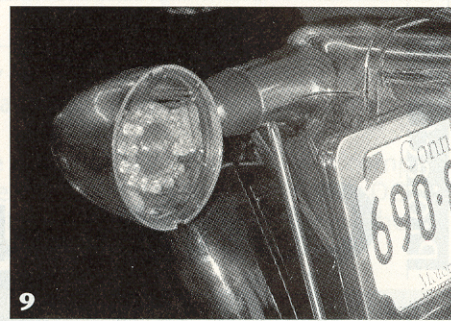
6 Route the harnesses to the turn signals. Don't worry if you don't at first see enough wire showing. You need to open the harness sleeve to access the turn signal wiring here (see arrow). A couple of inches is plenty.



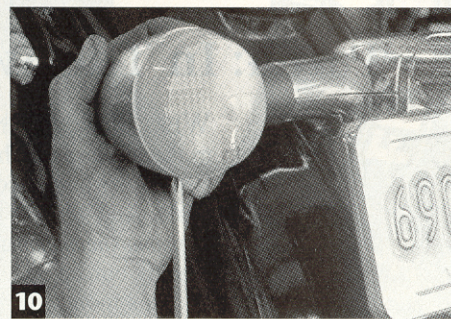
7 Connect the red wires from the LEDs to the red wires from the taillight and brake light with the supplied connectors. Connect the black wires from the LEDs to the power wires for the turn signals. (These connectors also are supplied.)



8 Reinstall the taillight assembly onto the fender. Make sure the gasket sits properly under the assembly.



9 Reinstall the cover to the turn signal/license-plate light assembly.



10 Install the lenses onto the turn signals. And you're done. Like I said, easy as pie. **RB**

Sources

Rear Turn Signal Conversion Kit \$49.95
THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTION
 PO Box 12243
 Dept. *RB*
 Knoxville, TN 37912
 800/215-6168
www.electricalconnection.com

Top Priority

The amount of light you present to the people following you is critical, especially in low light conditions. While the largest touring bikes have the advantage of having all the lights in the world attached to their luggage/trunk/trailer, cruisers, more often than not, come up kind of short in the rear visibility department.

After we installed the rear turn signal conversion kit from The Electrical Connection, we had more than doubled the amount of rear lighting on Trish's Honda Shadow ACE. How could we not be pleased with the results?

Check out the attached picture of the before and after. The installed kit doesn't take anything away from the performance of the turn signals. As a matter of fact, the unit is "smart" enough to override the taillight or brake light function on a given side if the turn signal is activated.

The order of "priority" for the system is turn signal, brake light, and then taillight. That is to say, the taillight won't try to go on when the turn signal or brake is applied. ■

