



HOPE VISION

Headlamp type: HID

Headlamp output: 500 lumens

Claimed run time: 2.5 hours

Battery type: Lithium Ion

Charge time: 3 hours complete

Smart charging: Yes

Battery mounting: Stem face plate

Mounting provided: Bar and helmet

Weight: 164g headlamp, 328g battery

Price: \$495

Little, black and different—this light is pretty cool. For starters, it's part of the stem. Rather than fighting for space on a potentially crowded handlebar, the Vision comes with a four-bolt stem face plate that replaces the standard plate on any Hope, Thomson or FSA stem (25.4mm regular or 31.8mm oversize). Under the cap there's a clip for the 14.8 volt lithium-ion battery which is enclosed in a fancily CNC'd billet aluminum case. Up top is the light, another sculpture of aluminum, housing a 10-watt, 500 lumen HID bulb. It's held on with a 5mm bolt, which must be loosened for adjustment, but is very solid. A threaded bayonet mount wire runs from the battery up to the light head. The whole deal is quite trick and very pretty. And waterproof, as I'm told the Vision was once used for scuba diving in a pinch.

The test started with me riding around for a month with the light mounted on my bike. Day and night, I came to appreciate the unit for its no-muss, no-fuss quality. Only a single wire, with no clamps, bags or water bottles to mess with. And while weighing in at 568g (with stem face plate) I could hardly tell it was there.

When it came time to get serious I was immediately impressed with the quality of the beam. With the head angled just slightly down, there's a really nice transition between the super-bright center and the outer edges of the illumination pattern. While it's hard to quantify the brightness compared to anything else, whilst doing a night lap during the Burn 24 hour race, the Vision was as bright as anything else I came across on the trail.

Also impressive is the mount. While the head can be adjusted up and down just fine, it always points forward. I can't tell you how many times I've been frustrated by a light pointing in the wrong direction due to odd bends in handlebars. However, one might be inclined to question what will happen in a crash, as there is no provision for breakaway.

My only complaint is with the micro size of the bayonet wire connections. They can be difficult to line up in the dark, and the tiny connections may bend if you're not careful.

The Vision lived up to its claimed 2.5-hr. run time on several occasions. It's real sweet. In the realm of \$495 lights it's certainly a contender if you are looking for something special in a lighting system. —Maurice

SCOTTOILER

ACTIVE FLUID SYSTEM

Aye, The Scottoiler! Alright, first things first. What is it? Well, the Scottoiler is an on-the-fly chain-lubricating device.

It consists of three parts. There's a reservoir that holds lube, a rubber pump dubbed the "squid" which releases the lube, and a pulley with lube ports that replaces the stock lower derailleur pulley. Thin tubing delivers lube from the reservoir into the squid and then to the pulley. The lube that came with the Scottoiler is water based—the water evaporates leaving a thin coat of lubricant on the chain; this also means the chain can be cleaned with plain water.

The Scottoiler is designed to go on bikes that see high mileages, so I mounted it to my road bike. Set up was pretty easy, though I did need to stretch out the squid to get its one-way valve working properly.

Bottom line: It works. My chain was always lubed and I didn't need to take extra time to lube it up. There was also a lack of gunk build up on the pulleys—always good. The only problem I had was when my tire rubbed a hole in the tubing. This was my fault for not checking the set-up. The Scottoiler comes with rubber sleeves to fix cuts like this.

Complaints: The tubing got in the way while shouldering the bike. Also, there is only one kind of lube—I like options.

The Scottoiler comes in six colors for \$85. Refill lube sells for around \$9 a bottle. Remember: If it's not Scottish it's craaap! —Ryan LaBar

