

Conversion of Reflector to LED

Courtesy Alan Seigris

I thought y'all would like to know that I have done an even better thing with this reflector conversion.

I have been watching LED technology for some time and I have found a company that makes a very VERY high intensity 1157. Trust me these lights are as bright, if not brighter than halogen bulbs... and they're better because they last forever and they have "instant on" functionality, plus the bulbs never get hot.

This is how the set up looks before final assembly on my early '64 BJ8:



I bought the LED from this company:

http://autolumination.com/1156_1157.htm

The LED I bought to use with the reflector was the Eagle Eye II 1157 in red (red is usually the brightest type of LED). I also bought the 1157 sockets from the same company. As you can see in my picture above I installed a ground wire at the bottom of the socket, as the light will be isolated from ground when mounted.

I drilled a hole in the rubber mount using a 25mm carbide tipped hole drill bit. The Eagle Eye II light fits very nicely in the hole and will not fall out (slight interference fit).

The only thing with these LEDs are the running lights and the brake lights are almost the same brightness (out of the box), so I put an inline 100 ohm/5 watt resistor on the running light circuit and now it all works perfectly. The light draws enough current so that a standard flasher will still work with this bulb. So, now my reflectors have running lights as well as brake/turn signal lights. It works really well!

FYI I also bought the Eagle Eye Tower 1157 (red) and put that in the standard Lucas turn signals. They now sell the Eagle Eye 5 1157, which if used you will not need the resistor on the parking circuit.

The LEDs that Pep Boys sells are just typically bright and put out less total light than an 1157, but if behind the car may be comparable to an 1157.

The Eagle Eye 5 lights that Autolumination sells are VERY bright, much brighter than a traditional brake bulb. I put them back there for safety.

They may be expensive but they are a different animal altogether