



Serious Headlights



Tungsten Filament Globe

21.8 Lighting Improvements

To put it bluntly, the standard WRX headlights suck. It is ridiculously easy to out drive the feeble OE lights, even with a completely stock car in dark and foggy conditions. Adding a whole heap more engine power and suspension grip quickly makes the OE lighting system a dangerous liability. Other important considerations when thinking about headlight upgrades are:

- Your age; a 40 year old male has the same night vision as a 20 year old wearing sunglasses.
- Night blindness of varying degrees affects more than 50% of females.

There is a very simple rule in vehicle lighting – if you can't see it you cannot miss it!

The Impreza range uses a variety of lighting combinations depending on year model and configuration; early model Version I to VI WRX and STi feature a single light assembly that uses a H4 halogen globe insert combining high and low beam into one bulb and reflector assembly. Version VII bugeye STi differed by having projector style lights with H1 halogen globes for low beam and halogen HB3 high beam globes. Version VIII and later WRX and STi use a split H1 halogen globe for low beam and HB3 halogen for high beam.

21.8.1 Headlights

A commonly held belief is that by simply upgrading globe wattages, dramatic improvements can be made to the OE headlights. There are several basic electrical lessons to remember here. In order to generate more visible light by upgrading bulb wattage, you automatically increase the amperage or current draw on the vehicles electrical & wiring system. This is an inescapable relationship governed by Ohm's law.

There is a very real risk that upping bulb wattage will significantly increase the temperature of the headlight reflector assembly, associated wiring, switches and relays. Ultimately this can also lead to overloading the alternator and OE battery. Even globe only upgrades that claim to be x% "blue", Xenon charged, or Xenon filled are a complete waste of money, and achieve an increase in lighting performance simply by increasing globe wattage over standard.

High Intensity Discharge Xenon (HID)

In order to really improve the lighting performance of the WRX, a more high-tech approach is required. The best example of this being HID lighting, as fitted to high end vehicles such as BMW, Mercedes, Lexus and exotica such as Porsche to name a few. HID lights are easy to spot by their distinctive blue and white hue, while halogen bulbs in comparison produce light that is creamy in colour.

Benefits of switching to a HID headlight system include:



Xenon Plasma Arc