

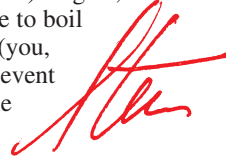
Horsing Around

The Voice of the Early Bronco Registry

EDITOR'S "BS" (Bronco Stuff)

Steve Sampson, Editor

As you schedule your Bronco activities for 2008, remember to put these three EBR sponsored west coast activities on your calendar. April 20th; the huge Fabulous Fords Forever car show at Knott's Berry Farm. (If it isn't too late, a registration form is available at www.earlybronco.com.) August, date still TBD; our unique Borrego Bake run - a chance to boil your cooling system at midnight, then cool off in a pool (you, not your Bronco). October 17-19: our big annual Bronco Daze event - a rare opportunity to combine great 4-wheeling, vendors, raffle and more all hosted in the luxury of a resort.

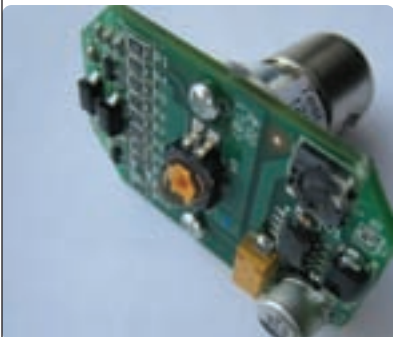


Bronco Bling!

What is it about owning an Early Bronco (or any Bronco) that gets your heart rate going? For me, two things nearly always work. First is the throaty sound of a belch-fire V8, deep into it's torque curve, rumbling up the rocks. If you can feel it as well as hear it, life is good! The second is "Bling". Not just any Bling, but Bling with jazzy lights doing unusual things. Modern LED lights are leading the Bling parade, so I'm nuts about LEDs. They are water-proof, dust-proof, bullet-proof, low power, and the recent technology is darn bright. With the help of some LED lighting vendors I met at the last SEMA show, we now have a variety of neat new Bronco-Tested lighting products we can share with you here.

First is an LED light bar from **StreetGlow**. They duplicate the tail light functions with LEDs across the full length of the light bar and bright brake/turn signals that fill the right or left half of the light bar as needed. You have likely seen these on the rear bumpers of trucks. You can do the same thing on a Bronco bumper or on the bottom of your tailgate. However the 49 inch model shown here fits perfectly (with supplied foam adhesive pads) above the rear hardtop window and so folks can see you over the top of many cars. It adds to the distinctive look of your Bronco and to your safety.

The next LED product, also a brake light and turn signal, is offered by **Dakota Digital** (and other Bronco vendors) to replace the light 1157 tail lights in Ford Broncos (it won't fit in the front turn signal housings,



The Dakota Digital LED Brake Light

only the rear). It uses the newest LED technology with a single super-bright LED mounted on a complex little circuit board. If you have a heavy duty flasher and leave standard 1157 bulbs in the front signals, it is a plug-and-play replacement for the rear. The LED is



The LED light bar fits a Bronco hardtop like a factory option. At night, it shows the width of Bronco, and if you are stopping or turning.



EBR MEMBER BUSINESSES:

- BC Broncos
- Bronco Parts
- James Duff Enterprises
- Jeff's Bronco Graveyard
- LMC Truck
- Kentrol
- Tom's Bronco Parts
- Wild Horses, Inc

EBR MEMBER CLUBS:

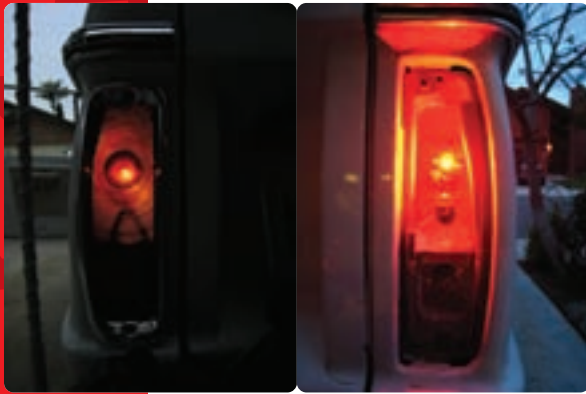
- Arizona Classic Broncos
- Deep South Early Bronco Club
- Early Broncos Ltd
- Mid-Atlantic Early Broncos
- Midwest Vintage Broncos



Early Bronco Registry
Dedicated to the
preservation and
enjoyment of the 1966-77
"Early" Ford Bronco

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small (perhaps 1/4" across), so I was fully prepared to find it dim compared to a bulb. Not so. That sucker is



The LED in the running mode, with and without the lens cover



The LED in the bright mode (brake or turn signal), with and without the lens cover

way bright! If you want a simple swap for an impressive life-time bulb, this more than does the trick.

The next project is strobe based, not LEDs, but it is high on the Bling scale. **StreetGlow** makes a serious programmable four-strobe kit (real strobes!) for the hot rod crowd. The question here was - could it be turned into a decent Bronco installation? How could we turn down that chal-



The StreetGlow controller module lets you pick any of a dozen or so different patterns.

lenge? The problem is that hot rod or street car strobe kits are usually drilled and mounted in the existing headlight reflectors. Our Bronco sealed beam headlights dislike drilling at all costs, so the Bronco installation is an unusual challenge. At a local truck shop I found a clear plastic utility light much like any auto parts stores carry, but this version didn't have the on-off switch common in the parts stores (we didn't want that anyway), and more important, it did have a reflector behind the bulb - great for getting the most FLASH out of your strobe. Using these parts and some simple custom modifications, the hardware cost was low and the results were mighty impressive. These strobes are pure "Bling", they aren't legal on the street. But for emergencies or eye-catching, eye-blurring appeal at night, these dudes have it!



Trim the rubber flange off the strobe base



Silicon the strobe into the socket so it is off-road proof



The clear plastic utility lights hold the front strobes. Look for the model without a switch and with a reflector.



Bingo! Or should I say "Blingo"? Here are the two front strobes ready to mount.



The modified utility strobe lights mounts handily behind the grill, just above the turn signals. Of course, you can put them most anywhere you want.



Remove the light bulb and file or Dremel the socket out to provide an exit opening for the strobe wires.



The rear strobes fit well in the tail light housing. You need a 5/8" hole. Mount the strobe low enough to clear the 1157 bulb or the Dakota Digital LED replacement. Wire everything up to the controller and blind - I mean Bling - your friends.

Now we are moving on to a very interesting new product by **VisionX**, an LED strobe system. This kit has a controller and eight all-weather LED mini-strobes. The controller provides 16 patterns including an “all-on” setting (you can’t do this with standard strobes!) and an undocumented shock sensor strobe trigger (this is neat!).



The controller selects 16 patterns including all on, plus different pattern speeds, and has internal LEDs to show you which pattern is running.

The beauty of this system is that it provides both enjoyable Bling and practical night lighting. I installed four on each side of my Bronco, located in front of and behind each tire. They aren’t so bright as to ruin your night vision, so they make a really practical way for you or your spotter to keep you on the right track



You can mount the small LED strobes virtually anywhere on your Bronco with screws or adhesive.



Here are the eight strobe light patterns surrounding the Bronco.



Both the StreetGlow and VisionX strobe systems come with a wireless remote control.

at night. This is a truly useful off-road lighting system!

A final offering is a high-power 1-watt single LED in a weatherproof housing available from **Super Bright LEDs, Inc.** (www.superbrightleds.com). The 12-volt flanged unit can be screwed or glued nearly anywhere and provides an intense directional light. I installed two on the front bumper and connected them to the ignition switch for daytime running lights. They really get attention without blinding you or using



Sealed LED running lights or area illumination lights shown on and off

much power. They also make a great crawling lights when your headlights are putting out too many photons.

To power all these new lights, there is a lot of new wiring running all around the Bronco, so we asked Eric at E&J Wireworks to make us a custom harness that directs and protects all the wiring. Eric’s work is elegant, meticulous and adds to the value of any electrical project. If you need Bronco wiring in So Cal, put E&J Wireworks at the top of your list.



Here are the strobe controllers and harness inside the Bronco, and a typical harness view under the Bronco.

So how well does all this Bling work? It’s brilliant (chuckle)! In addition to these photos, you can find more pictures plus videos of the strobe patterns posted at www.earlybronco.com.



This shows the front strobe lights, the LED running lights, and some bottom illumination from the LED strobes. (There are also LEDs all around the perimeter of the grill, but that is a story for another time.)

SUPPORTING VENDORS:

Dakota Digital
www.dakotadigital.com
1-800-593-4160

E&J Wireworks – Ramona CA.
www.enjwireworks.com
760-738-9497

StreetGlow
www.streetglow.com
1-800-STREETGLOW

Super Bright LEDs, Inc.
Superbrightleds.com

VisionX off-road lighting
www.visionxoffroad.com
1-800-994-4460