

TRAVEL • TECH • LIFESTYLE

FOR THE RV ENTHUSIAST

# MOTORHOME

MAY 2010

## IDEAL INNOVATION

*ROADTREK CLASS B  
HAS A SURPRISE ENDING*

**TAMING THE TILT**  
ROADMASTER ANTI-SWAY BARS

**DUMB AND DUMBER**  
READERS' TOP 10  
MOTORHOME MISHAPS

**TIP-TOP SHAPE**  
WIPE AWAY MOLD AND MILDEW  
ON FIBERGLASS ROOFS

**CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION**  
MONTANA'S GLACIER  
NATIONAL PARK

**GOING CONTINENTAL**  
RVING FAMILY TRAVELS  
THROUGH EUROPE

\$4.99 US / \$6.50 CAN



# techsavvy

HANDS-ON | HOT LINE | COACH & CHASSIS | POWERTRAIN

HANDS-ON | by DAVE RIGGS

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

Revolution LED replacement bulbs from Star Lights transform existing fixtures into long-lasting energy savers



Until recently, ubiquitous incandescent lighting fixtures found in motorhomes could only be superseded by fluorescents, which required a hardware swap. Once LEDs came on the scene, it was only a matter of time before replacement bulbs would become widely available — allowing the use of existing fixtures.

Star Lights Inc., a company that introduced the Smart Light motion-activated fixture a while back, now offers replacement LED bulbs in wedge and bayonet configurations.

The first bulb we tried was the wedge version, which has a flat tail with two embedded wires and is pushed into the receptacle built into the fixture. This type of fixture is becoming more common among motorhome builders. Called the Revolution Wedge, the Star Lights replacement is physically much bigger than the incandescent bulb and is rated at 160 lumens. A common wedge bulb (No. 921), used in motorhome lighting fixtures, is rated at 21 candlepower; the Revolution Wedge, by comparison, offers 12.7 candlepower.

While there is a noticeable difference in overall illumination, the LED version will last up to 50 times longer and uses a fraction of the energy. That's a valuable consideration when boondocking. The fixture's diffuser helps level out the playing field somewhat, and we found that we could easily live with the reduction in light output. We did like the natural

light color of the Revolution Wedge bulb.

The bayonet LED version has a slightly higher rating at 15.9 candlepower (200 lumens), although a 150-lumen version is also available. This will probably be compared to a common 1141 incandescent bulb that is also rated at 21 candlepower, but uses a little more power than its No. 921 counterpart. We had no problem living with the output of this bulb in our fixtures, either.

Keep in mind that the LED replacements may be too large for some twin-bulb fixtures. In ours, there wasn't enough room between the two receptacles in our wedge-bulb fixtures.

For years we've opted for fluorescent lighting to reduce energy demands while RVing in primitive areas. Those people who find fluorescent lighting visually too cold will probably like the warmer tones of the LED, especially the natural light versions.

The Revolution bayonet bulb is available in a black or white housing and sells for \$19.95; the 200-lumen model has a \$24.95 price tag, as does the wedge-style counterpart (white housing only). Obviously, there's a big difference in the cost of a standard incandescent bulb and one of the Star Lights. And the initial investment could be costly if you have a lot of fixtures. But you'll probably never replace the LEDs.

For more information, call 800-883-5444, or go to [www.starlightsinc.com](http://www.starlightsinc.com). ♦



## Bringing you Innovative Lighting Products

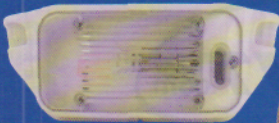
*The Smart Way to Stay Safe and Secure.*

### RV Motion Lighting Products:

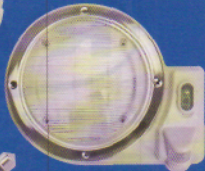
- Motion detection range can be set for 10-25 feet
- Installs easily, uses same hole pattern & wiring as most standard lights
- Star Monitor indicates RV's battery condition and helps preserve your coach battery

### 12v Replacement Bulbs:

- Revolution LED bulbs last 50 times longer than a standard bulb
- Energy efficient — can run 10 Revolution bulbs for every 1 standard bulb



Smart Light 1000® Also available in black



Smart Light 1000® Also available in black



**Get \$5 off**

Internet price. Use Web Site  
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