

The Hellfyr 12000 Spotlight from Fyrlýt

Ben Unten

Most of us are aware of the significant advancements made in the area of vehicular lights and spotlights in recent years.

Among the latest developments Fyrlýt has released the Hellfyr 12000 Remote Mount Spotlight, which is pronounced Firelight Hellfire. Once you push past the 'creativity' with Her Majesty's English it becomes apparent that this is definitely not just another spotlight. For a start it is 24v. It sports a 12000 Lumen halogen globe and is aimed at professional shooters (military, police, emergency services) and serious spotlighters.

Speaking with the guys at Fyrlýt, it became immediately obvious that they knew their stuff. Over the phone I was walked through the science behind selecting a halogen globe, as opposed to a light emitting diode (LED) or high-intensity discharge (HID), when referenced against the bandwidth/colour-rendering index that the human eye can take in. At this point my head started to spin and I was desperate to take the spotlight into the field to test it for myself.

The unit weighed approximately 1.52kg and the inverter recorded 460g on my digital kitchen scales. It's of aluminium construction and has a slot in the bottom

**The visual clarity that
the Hellfyr provided at
635m was superior...**

The Hellfyr 12000 Spotlight from Fyrlyt

of the mounting plate which allows it to be fixed to most spotlight handles - some may require an adapter. It comes with a converter which permits it to run off the 12-volt battery in a standard vehicle. The lens/reflector is approximately 240mm in diameter.

For the purposes of comparison, and some would say unfairly, I took my tried and trusted 240mm Lightforce (non-HID) spotlight with us. The reason for this was not to do an A/B comparison (which would be the unfair part) but simply to provide a baseline reference which many shooters may be able to relate to. Also, in my experience, sometimes the lumens and wattages quoted in advertisements are a less accurate description of a light's actual performance than you might hope.

After mounting the light on a through-the-roof system and temporarily wiring it in, we flicked it on. Everyone present immediately agreed that this was a pretty serious piece of kit. We played around with the beam focus (located at the rear of the light) and were able to subtly adjust the beam width to its narrowest setting to test the light's long-range capabilities. Then, using my laser rangefinder we did some testing and 'lit up' a few targets at various gaps for comparison.

With both lights aimed at a shearing shed 230m away, it became hard to see if the Lightforce was even on! We then selected the base of a tree approximately 385m away and compared the lights, and then at another pair of trees at 635m. Looking through a mid-range rifle scope (a Meopta Meopro 4-12x50 which retails for around \$650) we reckoned that a fox-sized object could potentially be identified at the 385m tree* using the Lightforce.

However the Hellfyr 12000 was able to better this at a point approaching twice the distance. To put this in perspective, the visual clarity that the Hellfyr provided at 635m was superior at an expanse which

was more than half as far away again. As if to prove the point, as we were looking through the scope at the 635m trees, two animals wandered into our sight-picture. After some toing and froing, it became apparent that they were kangaroos. Our confusion arose from the fact that they were 'crawling' on all four paws and having



Mounting the light.

never seen an animal at that distance under a spotlight before, we weren't sure of the relative body size of a fox/sheep/roo at that extreme night-time range.

I then uncovered an issue I had previously encountered when reviewing products where longer stretches are involved. The products are usually able to do it, but my camera equipment normally cannot. However, I managed to get a reasonable pic of the 635m trees under the illumination of the Hellfyr 12000 which I believe will give some indication of what this light can do.

A night of spotlighting fun proceeded and several rabbits were taken for the pot. Later, a fox was spotted by the driver and the vehicle pulled up to allow the shooter to take the shot. It was only when the shooter settled in behind the cross-hairs

that he noticed a mob of kangaroos approximately 150m further on which were not visible to the naked eye. Obviously the shooter passed up the fox as the Hellfyr had revealed that the backdrop was not safe. This effectively meant that the Hellfyr 12000 can see further than we could.

This brought home another advantage of this light in that it allowed for a much better assessment as to whether or not a shot was safe to take, which obviously all night-time shooters must vigilantly do.

We did experience a minor hiccup during our initial testing in that the 40amp fuse we installed in-line as per the manufacturer's specifications, actually melted. This was fairly quickly remedied via the fitting of a 40amp maxi fuse and some heavier gauge wire, but it does give an indication as to the potential current draw of this element.

As previously mentioned, this is a professional piece of kit and does come with a proportional price tag. The unit retails for \$995, which includes the inverter, but not the fuse. It is available by contacting Fyrlyt on: 08 8365 4668, tracking them down on Facebook or logging onto the website: fyrlyt.com

*Footnote:

I hasten to point out that I am not advocating taking animals beyond what you can competently and humanely despatch, only that this light allows you to see that far. Also I am in no way belittling the Lightforce 240mm. It was used as a baseline reference only and is still my 'go-to' light.

At the completion of the night's activities my shooting partner asked if I would make some enquiries on his behalf regarding the purchasing of this light. I did as requested and he is now the proud owner of a Hellfyr 12000. As I've said before, the proof in a 'review pudding', is in the buying and ownership of the reviewed product. You can't ask for a better reference than that. ■