

# STRIKE A SWITCH FOR SAFETY

LIGHTNING STRIKE ALERTS OTHERS ON THE ROAD TO YOUR WING  
BY **BILL MCILRATH**



**L**ightning Strike makes forward and rear facing lighting designed to make you more visible. For the front, they offer a pair of ultra-high intensity LED lights that flash alternately and are available in amber or white. These can be mounted on a flat surface, on bars, or if you have the lower Baker Built wind deflectors, they have brackets that incorporate the deflector mounting screws. The further apart they are mounted the better. We have deflectors, which puts them about as far apart as they can be on an 1800 Wing.

Flashback is a single rear module that gives a series of bright red flashes each time the brakes are applied. The flashes come in three rapid sets of flashes that last a second then turn off. They do a great job of grabbing the attention of anyone following you. Since we already have warning lighting on the rear of our bike, I decided to test Flashback on our daughter's bike. The main difficulty I have evaluating lighting is not being able to see it while riding. With Flashback on her bike, this became easier.

Flashback comes with a mounting bracket designed to attach to the top or bottom screws of a license plate frame. It has a well-placed slot adjacent to where the

light module mounts, making the bracket easy to bend. Most sport bikes have a slanted plate frame mount for more wheel clearance. By bending the bracket, Flashback can be mounted facing straight back for greater visibility. Installation took only a few minutes. Then all you need to do is connect the two wires to the vehicle's brake lights and you're done. I feel better now with this on her bike – the difference is dramatic.

Mounting the front lights takes a bit longer depending on how and where they go. It is designed to work with a switch that clamps on the left side handgrip, making it easy to activate with your thumb. The alternating flashing is hard for an approaching vehicle to ignore. The problem I have is my left thumb goes on autopilot when danger is sensed and is on the horn button before my heart has the chance to skip a beat. Instead of using the supplied switch, I decided to wire mine directly to one of the horns. Sometimes it seems car drivers can't hear a horn or think it's not meant for them. Even if hard of hearing, these lights should focus their attention. Few things will enhance your safety the way dramatic changes in lighting will. In my opinion, these well-designed products do just that. **[WW]**