

This is a brand new four LED light from HID Technologies—an Australian company that specialises in HID conversions for cars and other applications. The business name may be ‘HID’ but their Aussie made mountain bike lights have all moved over to the LED camp.

Lumen8r LED Quad is their first four LED light. It uses the same machined alloy housing as their \$455 three LED light but has a bigger battery to feed the power hungry Quad LED system. Both lights use ‘lithium-polymer’ batteries which are supposed to offer a better power to weight ratio than lithium-ion. This claim certainly seems to be true as the Quad sucks 18 watts of power and goes for five hours—pretty good for a 400g battery. The mid beam setting still throws plenty of light and goes for 18 hours! Low beam is really an emergency creep home mode and not particularly bright but it will go for 120 hours. These settings are controlled via a simple to use switch—it has a very light but positive feel and was easy to manage with gloved fingers. Just ensure that the battery is removed when you store the light as the light action switch can get bumped on accidentally.

This light is really geared towards helmet mounting. At 117g the head unit is very light for a four emitter system. It features a simple but tidy alloy bracket that mounts with a Velcro strap, and an adhesive Velcro patch provides additional

security. Once mounted the bracket allows easy vertical adjustment of the beam. The long cable also hints at the helmet mounted intentions of the Lumen8r. That’s not to say that it can’t be bar mounted; their website says that it can be attached to your handlebar stem with the same mount. However, this was a bit hit and miss and it also creates two other problems—it leaves lots of excess cable and you have to find a way of mounting the battery. It can be done but you’ll need to use cable ties or source your own Velcro strap to attach it. As with the Nightlightning, you can always retrofit your own quick release handlebar mount if you are really keen.

The Quad LED system was noticeably brighter than the three LED that we reviewed—the extra emitter really makes a difference. While the Lumen8r Triple is not included in these pages, I did get to see the two side by side and the Quad is definitely more potent. Both the Quad and the Triple have the same distinct beam profile. It is narrow and quite bright through the middle with a gradual filtering out towards the edges. Once again, this makes it more suitable for helmet mounting. The super bright middle portion of the Quad can be distracting at low speed if you mount it to your bars. Fit it to your head and it remains stable and points where you want to see—and you can really see... This light illuminates a long way down the trail; it has greater pen-

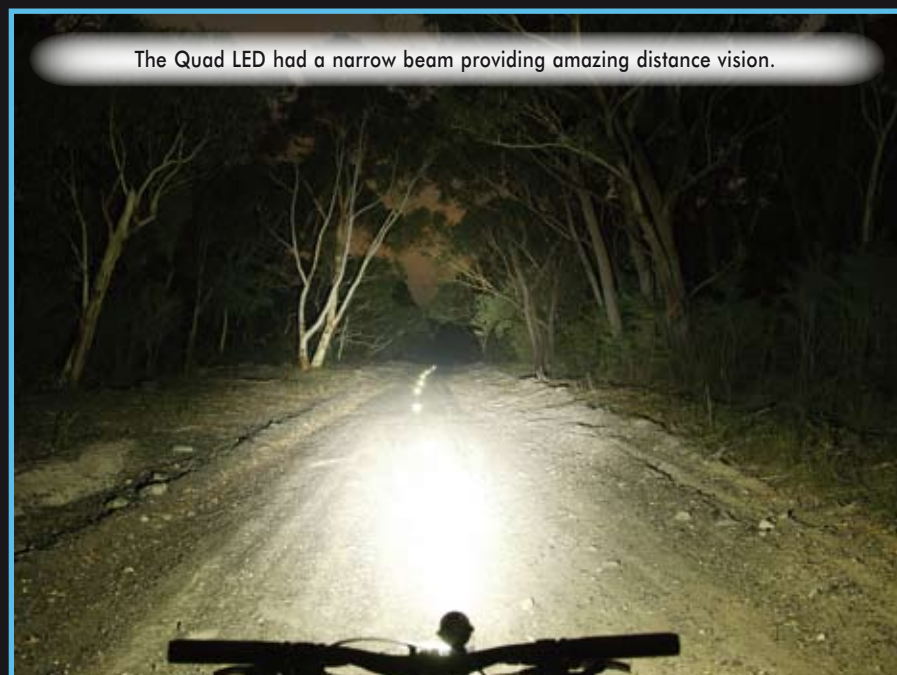


etration than the 30 watt Trail Tech HID and was clearly the brightest LED in this test.

The light intensity combined with the long run times, functional design and competitive price should make the Lumen8r Quad a popular helmet mounted light.

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	\$535
LEDs	4 x Cree R2 LEDs
Battery Type	4,000mAh Li-polymer
Charge Time	3 hours
Light Unit Weight	117g
Battery Weight	406g
Total System Weight	562g
Hi-Beam Burntime (as tested)	5:00 hours
Longest Burntime (claimed)	120 hours
Mounting Types	Helmet & stem



The Quad LED had a narrow beam providing amazing distance vision.