

THE VOLOLIGHTS UNIT is a lightweight, self-contained brake light supplement that flashes whenever a bike is actively decelerating, not just when its brakes are applied. Once installed, strong engine braking, typical on motorcycles, comes with its own visual cue to alert careless drivers, potentially reducing rear-end collisions.

The inception of the Vololights system came from a situation most riders would find familiar. Vololights' Faizal Ali was exiting a freeway, downshifting to slow the bike, when an inattentive car driver nearly plowed through him. Ali escaped only by swerving onto the shoulder, but from that day, he figured part of the problem was that he was decelerating quickly but there was zero braking indication for to cue the inattentive drivers behind him.

Fast forward to today and we have the first Vololights units ready for purchase. Composed of a new license plate frame with an upper and lower bar of red LEDs (along with a row of white LEDs to illuminate the plate itself), the unit includes a three-axis accelerometer that measures deceleration from any force, whether it's from the brakes or engine braking. If deceleration exceeds a pre-programmed threshold, the unit's LED bars flash. Better yet, under more extreme deceleration, the unit flashes faster, for a more visible and urgent warning to following drivers.

In action, the unit works beautifully. Rolling up to third gear, then stomping two quick downshifts will get the LEDs flashing exactly like Vectolabs says it should. The LEDs are bright and easily grab attention. Since the unit also

works when the brakes are slowing the bike, the Vololights serve as a valuable additional brake light.

Installation is straightforward, as the Vololights only require 12V switched power and don't need to interact with the brake lights. Vectolabs recommends tapping into the license plate lamp and provides nice lever-action wire clamps to make the connection. We took things a step further by wiring our Vololights unit directly to the license plate lamp, then hiding all the wiring inside the lamp housing on the rear fender for a very sano look. Once wired and bolted in place, an included magnet is waved behind the lower LED bar to configure and activate the system. The same magnet can also be used to disable the flashing function, making the LEDs turn solid when activated, for regions with laws against flashing brake lights.

I haven't been rear-ended lately, so it's hard to prove that the Vololights are working to protect me, but in testing, they send a strong message to following motorists: "Back off! Something is going on here that you need to be aware of right now!"

We'd highly recommend the system for any rider. The Vololights license plate unit retails for \$129, and there's also a module version for \$119 that wires into your brake light directly, eliminating the license plate frame.

—Bruce Steever

Vololights by Vectolabs, LLC. —

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Above: The Vololights flash a brief diagnostic sequence on power-up to ensure functionality. Not only can you see the white LEDs for the license plate, but you can see how bright the red LEDs are compared to the stock brake light. Below: Wiring in the unit was very easy, but we took our time for a very clean and stock-looking final appearance.

