

USED & ABUSED

STUFF THAT THE LRO TEAM HAVE BEEN PUTTING TO THE TEST

RING XTREME BLUE H4 BULBS £20.26



leaving the original bulbs. But seeing as I was going to this much trouble, I thought I may as well change the bulbs, too.

So, off I went to my local auto-electrical distributor to see what I could find. On offer that week were a set of performance bulbs from Ring Automotive at a reasonable price, so I went for them.

The Xtreme Blue bulbs are up to 90 per cent brighter than the standard Halogen H4 bulbs, and they provide a crisp light that's claimed to imitate daytime conditions, reducing eyestrain and fatigue. Objects can be seen more clearly at a distance of up to 75 metres as a result of this cleaner white light, without dazzling oncoming traffic.

They've made a huge difference: night-time driving is much easier and much safer now.

Verdict: Xtremely good.
sedltd.com



Used by: Peter Skilton, staff writer
Used for: three months

When it came to improving the headlights on my Defender, I could have just replaced the lens unit,

OIL SPY TEST KIT £12.95



Used by: Neil Watterson, assistant editor
Used for: 14 months

These clever little pieces of paper give you a huge amount of info about your Land Rover's engine.

Simply put a drop of oil in the centre of the paper and you'll find out if the oil is still good to use. Although designed for testing engines in regular use, I've also found it invaluable for vehicles used less frequently. A recent check on

my Series IIA ambulance showed that the oil (which had covered just 2500 miles in six months) was badly contaminated with petrol, reducing its lubricating abilities.

The manufacturer claims you can get a reading in 15 minutes, but I've found it's more like a couple of hours. The kits contain 26 tests – so, even if you were to check a couple of vehicles every six months, the pack will last years.

Verdict: Almost essential.
oil-spy.com, 01590 689777

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