

REPLACING LED'S IN DASH-9 DITCH LIGHTS

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Forward:

Every two months when it comes time to put the Aristo-Craft Insider together Mike and I are usually beating our brains out for meaningful Material for the Insider. Jon Van Skiver has come fourth to take up the challenge and share some of his knowledge and experience with you. In this article Jon is going to take you through the process of changing out the Light Emitting Diode (LED) ditch lights on the Aristo Craft Dash-9.

Ron

Although LED's are almost indestructible some can and will burn out. The super bright white ditch light LED used in the Dash-9 is a 3mm T1 diameter LED.

The 1st thing you should do is get a soft towel or a cradle to lay the Dash-9 on to protect it. It would be a good idea to remove the sunshades and any small detail parts that you may have added to prevent damage to them.

As a minimum you will need the following tools:

- #1 or #0 Philips screw driver
- Soldering iron
- Rosin core solder
- Small pair of needle nose pliers (would be helpful).

Step 1 Remove the existing LED

Remove the screw underneath the ditch light then pull on the ditch light housing very gently to allow some slack in the wire to work with. Then you will have to remove the small screw that holds the 2 halves together. The last task in this step is to pull the ditch light bulb out and cut the bulb away from the engine.

Please note:

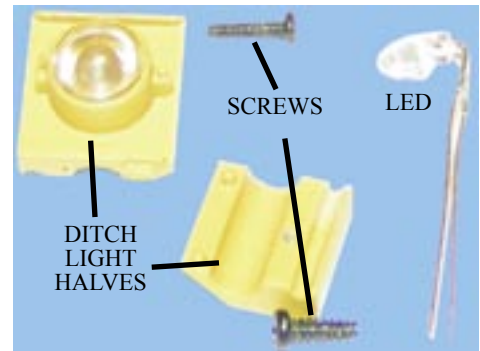
One lead of the LED light is longer and the bulb base has a flat spot. That is for identification. The flat spot and shorter terminal is usually negative. Make sure to check the polarity of wires on the DASH-9 for proper operation. Make a note on



REMOVE SCREW



REMOVE SCREW



Step 2 Install the new LED

When replacing the LED, install it in the front side of the Aristo Ditch light housing with the terminal ends negative (cathode) and positive (anode) perpendicular to the housing so they can be bent down and fitted into the housing. Taking care to note which is which is which (A small dab of paint or a small section of string tied on the Cathode side is recommended) cut the cathode and anode to fit. Double-check the polarity before you solder to the wires. When reattaching the housing on the locomotive a good pair of needle nose pliers come in real handy to pull the wire back through the underside of the front deck. Your last task in this step is to replace the last screw and run your DASH-9 with both ditch lights once again.

Jon

how the original was set up, because you might not be able to see the difference in terminal lights. However, you should be able to see the flat spot on bulb.