

Replacing the Headlights on my 2007 Discovery – by Gordon Sims

I was curious ... I asked on the egroup if anyone had ever upgraded the headlights on their D. No one had, but several asked for details if I decided to do it. I did, and here are the results. The original headlights were late 9-s Ford Super Duty lights. It's a bit hard to explain, but once you lay the original bracket onto the new headlight assemblies, it's pretty clear what you have to do. The original light assemblies are two pieces. One is the headlight, the other the turning signal/side marker. The 2007 assemblies are one single unit. The bottom of the new lights bolt to the same holes the original turning signals did. But the D's bracket isn't quite the shape of the front firewall of the truck's and one corner will not clear the plastic. So, a simple cut, flip and weld of that corner did the trick.



Bottom of each bracket. You need to cut the corners off, but you simply flip over and re-weld back on.



Bottom corner welded back on. Now the bottom will bolt flush.



This is the best picture of what needs to be done at the top of the bracket. Old light on left, new on right. Basically, the 2007 lights are internally adjustable via the tiny adjuster just above the new bracket on the left side of the new headlight assembly. Because of that, the housings bolt solid to the brackets, rather than the complex adjustment screws of the originals. For some reason, the older F250/F350s have holes for the new mounting points of the 2007 lights, but you have to add them to the D;s bracket. Also, the upper part of the original bracket hits the back of the new assembly, so just cut it off and weld on a couple of bent tabs. there is actually enough metal in the piece you cut off to make the new brackets. On this first one (on the right), I used a chunk of flat iron I had before I realized that. Build one at a time so you make sure you keep the new lens in the same plane as the old one.



Quick shot of paint on the welds and time for a beer!



Here are the two new headlights bolted to the modified brackets. The two adapter harnesses convert the new bulb sockets to the old. They come with the kit.



Here is the adjuster screw to align them, which you access in the front hood opening.



Here is the finished product. very clean and `way more modern than original. Note floor: the two tools I always have at hand – pliers and a Blackberry!



Just one more shot. The lights will be much brighter as headlight design has come a long way since 1999 (original style) to 2007.



I took before and after photos of the headlights. This is the BEFORE.



This is AFTER. The new headlights fit the nose opening perfectly, but I did have to modify the brackets a bit. I think they look better than the originals. Sorta like given your old Discovery a nose job! In this picture, the headlights still had the protective cellophane on the face and they weren't bolted in yet.