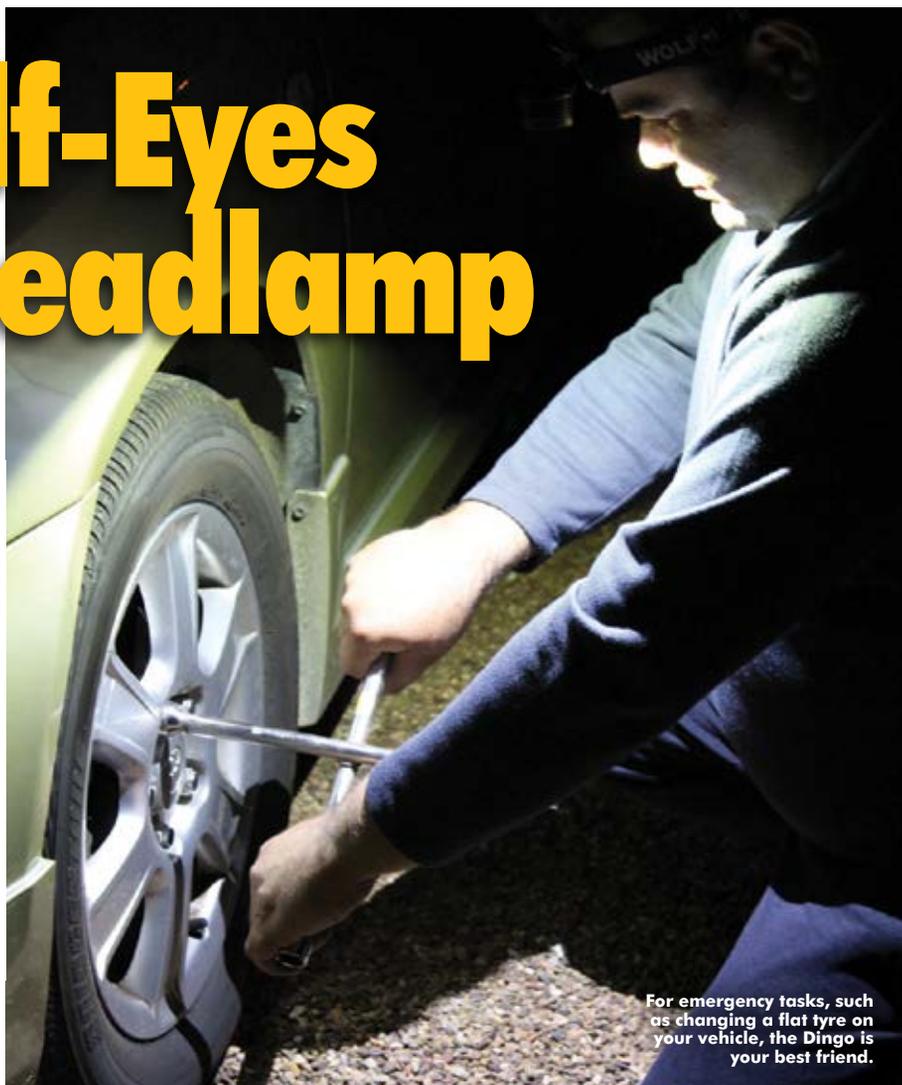


The Wolf-Eyes Dingo headlamp

by Con Kapralos



The Wolf-Eyes Dingo displayed upon the Tibetan ceremonial skullcup or 'Kapala'.



For emergency tasks, such as changing a flat tyre on your vehicle, the Dingo is your best friend.

To say that the range of torches Wolf-Eyes has to offer to anyone needing portable lighting systems is impressive, is somewhat of an understatement. Looking at the company's current product range on its website, the complete range of torches and accessories has gone from strength to strength. If you're an outdoor enthusiast, farmer, security professional, law enforcement officer or just a consumer wanting a portable light for life's emergencies, you will be able to find just what you want in the Wolf-Eyes range. If you can't, then you are very hard to please!

I have been using a Wolf-Eyes Sniper and Seal torches for some time now and find them completely reliable, trouble free and built to take any knocks and dings expected with hard use. Some time ago, I had asked Glen Curyer, the principal of Quarterflash, the Wolf-Eyes importer and distributor in Australia, why Wolf-Eyes had

a 'gap' in its product range - that it didn't offer a professional-quality headlamp for serious outdoor use. I refer to something that gives you all the light you need and more, unlike the cheap \$15 units you find at the local outdoor megastore.

Glen, however, did have some positive news, but he wouldn't let me know what was in the development stage - until now. Until that stage, I had been using another brand of headlamp from another well-known manufacturer and I had been very happy with the performance of that unit. I was therefore keen to see how the new unit from Wolf-Eyes would measure up to my current headlamp.

Enter the Wolf-Eyes Dingo - a lightweight headlamp with two interchangeable lenses, which use the Wolf-Eyes rechargeable batteries, and is fully controllable from the front. The Dingo is available complete with the headlamp and charger/battery, or just the headlamp alone. This

is a brilliant marketing strategy, as users of Wolf-Eyes torches can simply buy the headlamp alone and use the batteries and charger from their torch for the operation of the headlamp.

Glen sent for review the Dingo headlamp and charger/battery. The items came packaged in two separate black embossed cardboard boxes with a neat Wolf-Eyes black ribbon securing each box. As with all Wolf-Eyes products, the box housing the items has the usual silver QC certificate, which states the model type, items included and QC inspection information. Unpacking both boxes yielded some familiar components (battery and charger), but the headlamp was a complete eye-opener and vastly different from what I expected.

The rechargeable kit contained one CH-01 charger and an LRB-168A lithium ion battery. This battery is identical to the one used in many of the Wolf-Eyes tactical

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torches, including the Sniper, Defender, Explorer and Seal, to name a few. The Dingo headlamp kit contained the headlamp and two additional lenses.

The headlamp consists of the front bezel, which is attached by an adjustable bracket to an insulated pad. This pad then connects to the adjustable, elasticised headband and top strap. At the rear, to keep the unit evenly balanced, is the single battery holder. The front bezel is constructed of aircraft-grade aluminium with cooling ports built in so that the light emitting diode (LED) doesn't overheat.

The Dingo headlamp utilises an 800-lumen LED with 500 lumens out the front. All the controls for the headlamp are on the front for easy access and positive control. There are four levels of operation - high, medium, medium-low and low - as well as a strobe setting, which are all easily accessible and operated by twisting the front bezel. The bezel can also be slid back and forth to control the focus of the light from the two lenses. The headlamp bezel has the capacity to be tilted easily by the user. Every control is in the front for safety and comfort of use for the operator. No more fiddling around the back of your head for a switch!

What sets this headlamp apart from the competition is the interchangeable lens system. The Dingo comes with two different lenses to effectively give you three different light beams. The long-distance tele-lens is perfect for hunting, as it provides a spot which can pick up all manner of game far into the distance. This lens is also adjustable by sliding the bezel from spot to flood (11 to 50 degrees).

This lens can be removed and replaced with the wide-angle lens, which produces a very broad spot of light out to shorter distances of around 50m. This lens is perfect for the user who wishes to use it for general outdoor night-time work,



The adjustable bracket, which attaches the bezel to the insulated backing pad, allows a full 90-degree arc of movement (vertical axis only) of the bezel.

emergency services work or close-in hunting such as chasing rabbits for the pot. You can also adjust this lens by sliding, giving a beam from 50 to 76 degrees.

The wide-angle lens can be removed and the light can be used without a lens at all. An innovative glass cover over the LED makes it waterproof. The Dingo can be used in this mode to provide a very even flood of light over about 160 degrees with no spot. This is perfect for close-up tasks such as eating and cooking, medical emergencies, changing a flat tyre, attending to livestock, reading and more recently for me, dealing with power outages at home

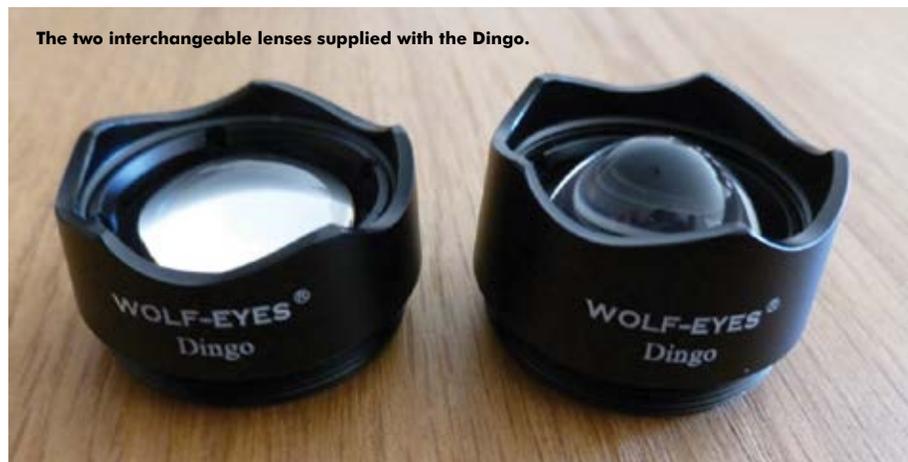
- just the thing at 5am! This interchangeable lenses system has certainly changed the boundaries when it comes to portable headlamps. Simply brilliant, Wolf-Eyes!

The Dingo headlamp utilises the very light but powerful Wolf-Eyes LRB168A rechargeable battery. It can also use two CR123 non-rechargeable batteries. As with all Wolf-Eyes products, the headlamp is regulated, in that the light does not fade when the unit is being used. The Dingo will be able to use your existing batteries from almost all Wolf-Eyes torches and vice versa. The LRB168A battery is a pocket dynamo, and only one is required to operate the Dingo, making for a much lighter and manoeuvrable headlamp. The LRB168A rechargeable battery provides 150 minutes of runtime on high, 295 minutes on medium, 17 hours on medium-low and 136 hours on low.

In the field

Using the Dingo headlamp has meant my trusty Sniper and Seal torches will now be reserved for use with my firearms. With the Dingo perched atop your head, this gives you two hands free, which is just what you need for all the tasks you used to juggle before with one hand.

Around the camp, we used the headlamp for meal preparation, latrine duties,



The two interchangeable lenses supplied with the Dingo.

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washing up, preparing and checking our vehicle and so much more. While out hunting at night, we used the Dingo (without any lenses attached) to assist with opening paddock gates, retrieving despatched game and field-dressing game for the table. The Dingo was a breeze to use in these instances and supplied more than enough light for all tasks - and that's with no lens fitted. The four light settings provided enough light for whatever task was required. Even recently, at 5 o'clock one morning, an impromptu power outage had me reaching for the Dingo to light up the kitchen area at home and did it work a treat. Even my wife was impressed!

Moving away from house and paddock, I used the Dingo on several night-time fishing trips with complete success. Only ever needing the low power setting for baiting hooks and unhooking fish, the Dingo lived up to expectations, not to mention the countless inquiries I had from other fisherfolk about the headlamp I was using.

I fitted the wide-angle lens to the Dingo and decided to tackle some resident bunnies and hares at my brother's olive grove. With my trusty Miroku Mk38 shotgun and a pocketful of No. 4s, this was going to be a good test of the Dingo as a headlamp hunting light. Sliding the bezel to the 'spot' mode, the Dingo lit up the



A close-up of the 800-lumen LED behind the waterproof glass cover. The unit can be used without an attached lens to provide a 160-degree arc of light with no spot.



The single battery housing located at the rear of the headlamp can house a single LRB-168A lithium ion rechargeable battery or two CR123 alkaline non-rechargeable batteries.

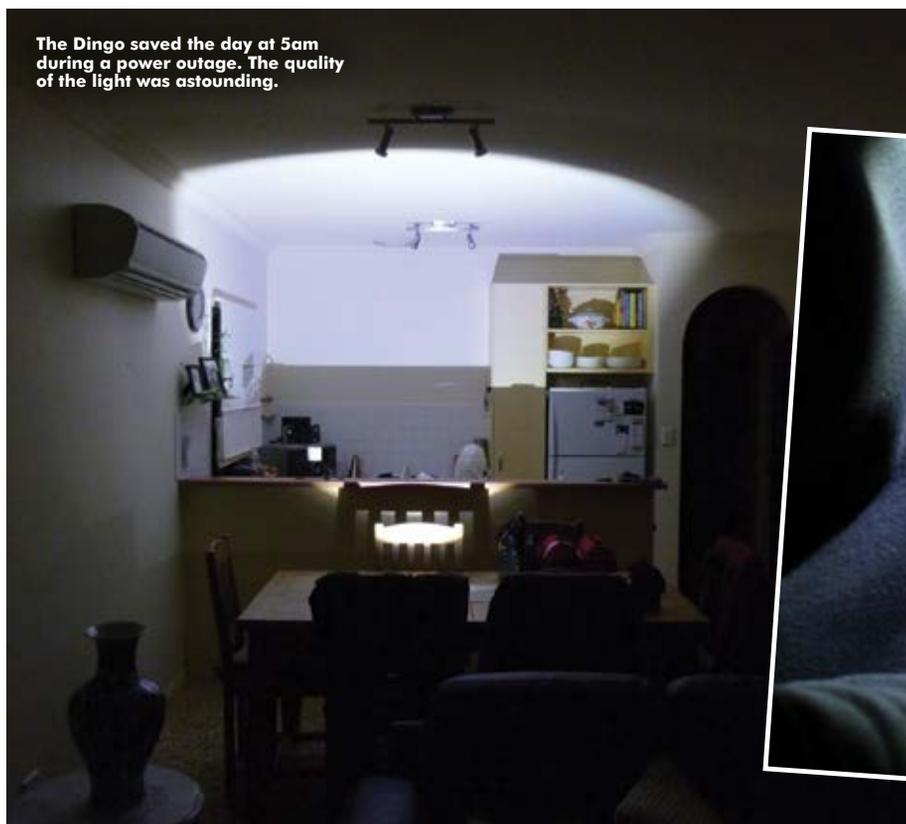
rows of olive trees very well and I could easily see out to 100m - and any rabbit or hare within range was in trouble. I managed a couple of rabbits and a hare for the pot, which was more than enough for a few good meals.

Later on in the night, I switched over to the tele-lens, grabbed my Marlin .22LR and went scouting for some distant targets. While no game was spotted, the light beam produced by the tele-lens in both the spot and flood settings was very impressive. I am looking forward to using this lens on a more regular basis in the warmer months to come.

Summary

The Wolf-Eyes Dingo has created a new standard for professional-quality headlamps for recreational, commercial, law enforcement and emergency services use. Its light weight, simple operation and rugged but simple construction means that it will win many fans. But in our case, as a headlamp for use in the bush, boat, beach, car or around the home, it is without a doubt a great headlamp that will provide many years of trouble-free service.

Wolf-Eyes Dingo headlamps are available at selected firearm retailers or direct from Wolf-Eyes. For further information, phone toll-free on 1300 911 007 or visit www.wolfeyes.com.au ●



The Dingo saved the day at 5am during a power outage. The quality of the light was astounding.



The Dingo is made for fishing, either with the wide-angle lens or no lens at all. Low power is perfect for changing lures, baiting hooks or unhooking fish.