

The Wolf-Eyes Seal torch

by Con Kapralos



The Wolf-Eyes Seal with the 83mm aspheric lens installed.

The smaller 50mm deep-set reflector lens is suitable for general use and for shooting up to 150m. It also makes the torch easier to carry in your pocket or vehicle glove box.

Wolf-Eyes has been a world leader in the manufacture of portable torches for police, military and civilian recreational purposes for many years now and the company's current range of specialty lights and accessories certainly validates this. Perusing the Wolf-Eyes website, all manner of torches, accessories and applications are displayed and described.

Glen Curyer, principal of Quarterflash, the Australian importer and distributor of

Wolf-Eyes torches, has been at the forefront of sourcing what the consumer demands, and if you can't find a torch in the extensive Wolf-Eyes range to suit your application, then you are a very fussy customer. The quality of the torches and accessories made to specifically suit each unit have been manufactured from the highest quality materials, which will give years of sterling service at an extremely affordable price. Wolf-Eyes torches are famous for being compact and user-friendly, as well as being covered by the company's five-year no-nonsense body warranty.

Quarterflash sent for review the Wolf-Eyes Seal torch, which is aimed very purposely at the hunter who shoots at night

alone from a vehicle or on foot. I have had my Wolf-Eyes Sniper torch for more than five years now and this fantastic little light has repaid itself many times over. It would be interesting to see what the Seal torch would do for the recreational outdoor-person, farmer or anyone who needs top-quality, no-nonsense light.

The Seal came in the customary black carton, which is synonymous with Wolf-Eyes. A small QC certificate on the side of the carton states the model of torch within, batch number and what particular light source is included. Upon opening the carton, you immediately notice how professionally all the contents are packaged. Included in this kit are the two



1" and 30mm size scope mounting brackets can be purchased additionally.



This hunting rifle has the Seal torch with the 83mm lens set up and ready to use. The tape switch is not fitted here.

The Wolf-Eyes Seal torch

interchangeable flashlight heads, flashlight body, dual tail cap and tape switch, as well as one rechargeable lithium ion battery and charger. As a bonus, Quarterflash always includes a nice Wolf-Eyes decal and a nifty keyring with the smallest but brightest key light you will ever see! Additionally for the review, Quarterflash included two scope mounting brackets to suit 1" and 30mm scope tube bodies respectively, as well as the flashlight bracket which attaches to the scope bracket.

The main drawback of the Seal is the two interchangeable heads, which basically give the user two vastly different torches in one. The main spotlight head catches your attention immediately due to its 83mm diameter and impressive aspheric (magnifying) lens. However, examining the head more closely, you notice that the width and depth dimensions are the same - a design that ensures maximum throw of the light beam, far beyond what is achievable with an ordinary rifle-mounted lights. The LED (light emitting diode), lens size and lens dimensions all combine to produce useable light up to 400m and beyond. The large size and fine focusing ability of the head enable the user to focus for a slightly shorter and wider beam, something which has been lacking with normal aspheric lenses.

The smaller 50mm deep-set mirror reflector head provides a great ally to the larger head. Easily interchanged, it gives a combination of spot and flood light out to around 150m. This makes this light simply brilliant mounted on top of a rimfire or small centrefire rifle outfit. But it also serves as a great general-purpose torch for any task you may wish to use it for - whether that is checking your livestock at night or repairing a flat tyre on your car.

The torch body is manufactured from high-grade aluminium and is beautifully crafted, measuring 25.4mm (1") in diameter, which makes it adaptable to many aftermarket scope-mounting brackets.



A close-up of the scope-mounting hardware also available through Quarterflash. The scope attachment contains the Picatinny rail and the torch attachment hardware to mate to the rail.

The torch body is also lined with a brass liner, for greater strength, better electrical conductivity and, most importantly, to draw heat away from the high-output Cree XML-12 LED to prolong the life of the high-output LED.

The LED produces a staggering 1020 lumens of pure white light. The light output is regulated, meaning the light doesn't fade as the battery use increases. Thus, the light will not dim until the battery reaches its last 10 per cent of its runtime. With the single rechargeable lithium ion battery, a runtime of 60 minutes regulated on high or 65 hours-plus on low is achievable. The control unit allows the user to easily switch between the high and low settings, as well as a strobe setting for emergency applications. However, once the battery starts to get low, it's easily recharged using the supplied 240-volt recharger. I would certainly recommend that prospective buyers purchase at least two extra batteries and these be kept fully charged. The battery is changed by simply unscrewing the tail cap and inserting a fresh battery.

The tail cap and accessory tape switch are a revelation. The tail cap has an on-off switch, which is pressed in-out to operate. Next to the switch is a small rubber cover, which protects the tape switch connection. The tape switch is designed to be attached to the riflestock and to allow easier operation of the light while you are out shooting at night. I find it best positioned with PVC tape (not too tight) around the area of the stock where my left hand (shooting from the right shoulder) would be. A slight press of the tape switch and the light would switch on or off. This is much better than fiddling with the on-off switch on the tail cap.

Back to the power source of the unit, the rechargeable lithium ion LRB168A battery supplied with the unit and charger make it easy to recharge the battery using normal 240-volt power. As mentioned, extra batteries can be purchased from Quarterflash and I would strongly advise using genuine Wolf-Eyes lithium ion batteries, as these are optimised for use with the company's range of torches. Using aftermarket batteries could easily damage your LED and cause erratic performance of your flashlight.

Quarterflash supplied two scope-mounting brackets (to suit differing scope diameters) and the torch mounting bracket. These items can be purchased separately according to user requirements from the importer/distributor. Both the



The contents of the Wolf-Eyes Seal kit as supplied.

scope attachments and the torch mount are made from high-strength aluminium.

In the field

The Seal flashlight with the smaller 50mm head was first trialled on my Marlin .22LR rifle and used to target a few bunnies on my brother's property. The setup was just so easy to use and the weight was hardly noticeable. The light beam was beautiful and white, and shooting out to 75m resulted in a few rabbits and hares for the pot. Several night-time sessions with this set-up really performed to my expectations. I also used the torch in this configuration for general odd jobs around the house at night, as well as when out fishing.

For longer distance shooting, the aspheric lens was attached and the rig set-up on my Sako .243 rifle. As a passenger in my brother's four-wheel drive, I would normally use a conventional spotlight. However, on this occasion, the only light was the Seal torch mounted on the Sako. The performance and light produced by the 83mm lens certainly validated the manufacturer's claims. We bagged several hares and a couple of feral cats out to 300m and you could easily see out to 400m and beyond with the naked eye. This set-up would be just the ticket for hunters who shoot alone on foot, at night, where game can be very wary and easily disturbed.

Summary

The Wolf-Eyes Seal and the many other torches and accessories imported and distributed by Quarterflash in Sydney are at the pinnacle of portable light systems for any application you may desire. Quarterflash has a very user-friendly website and is only too happy to answer any questions you may have. Wolf-Eyes torches and accessories are available through selected retailers Australia-wide or directly from Quarterflash. For more information, phone 1300 911 007 or visit www.wolfeyes.com.au ●