

## **lupine:wilma**

\$590–\$750, complete kits | [www.GretnaBikes.com](http://www.GretnaBikes.com)

The first feature of Lupine's light systems that caught my eye is the company has gone to great lengths to make all of its lights and accessories interchangeable.

"All of our lights are completely compatible, past, present and future," says Bill Gentile of Gretna Bikes, the U.S. importer for Lupine lights. "You can interchange all of the lamp heads, all of the batteries and chargers and all of the mounting systems. The connectors are interchangeable and have remained the same for the seven years we have been importing Lupine."

That means if you have an older HID model, you can easily upgrade to a new LED lamp head without purchasing an entirely new system. Or you can adapt to new battery technology as it becomes available, which seems to be often. It's a nice feature.

Lupine offers three base lamp heads: the 12 watt Tesla, the 17 watt Wilma and the 23 watt Betty, which respectively dole out 700, 920 or 1,500 lumens at max power. Lupine also has 10 battery options, ranging from 0.7 amp-hours to 14.5 amp-hours.

The middleweight Wilma is a great versatile light for cycling. Its golf ball size and 112 gram weight are reasonable for handlebar or helmet mounting, and its 920 lumen output makes it one of, if not the most, powerful 17 watt light available.

The lights and accessories, even spare parts, are sold

à la carte or in complete kits set up for various uses. All those battery options give the Wilma run times of 13 hours with the 14.5 amp-hour water bottle model to 30 minutes with the nano-sized 0.7 amp-hour model—perfect for carrying as a spare to get you home.

My first chance to run the Wilma on trail was at this year's 24 hours in the Old Pueblo, racing on a four-person singlespeed team. With the 5 amp-hour battery and a handlebar mount, the light mounted quickly and easily with no tools. A simple but stout and stretchy rubber loop holds it firmly on the bar and makes for easy on-the-trail adjustments. The battery is so compact I was able to mount it on my stem and keep the cord length to a minimum.

The 5 amp-hour battery gave me a 130-minute run time at full power so I was confident I'd get plenty of light power while out on the typical 75-minute night lap at The OP. My only concern was, with only one battery and a five-hour charge time, would the battery remain adequately charged after four night laps with less than four hours between each lap?

The charging worked out fine, and I was impressed with the power of the light. The 920 lumens light up the trail like high beams. These durable new LED lights are amazing, and Lupine's adaptability and quality make it a great choice for a high performance light system.

The Wilma is packed with features like power controls, deep charging protection, voltage count and dimming controls that make it user friendly. It even has a reserve tank in case you get delirious and forget to keep track of your run time.

Gretna Bikes sells direct from its website but encourages customers to check with their local shop first. —B. Riepe

