

Job done with the Powa Beam Pro250 mounted up.

# Powa Beam

## spot the difference

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For me there's only ever been one choice for remote mounted spotlights - Powa Beam. In saying this I mean no disrespect to other brands on the market, the simple fact is I've only ever had to make one decision as I bought mine almost 20 years ago and it's still going strong. Mounted on my Feroza shooting buggy, hundreds of ferals and roos under permit have literally 'seen the light' before moving on to the great animal hereafter.

My 100W Pro9 (9" or 245mm) has served me well and I really had no thought nor reason to change it. Then I heard from Darren at Powa Beam telling me they'd a new 250W Quartz Halogen unit available in 7", 9" and 11" versions and asking if I'd give one a whirl. A short time later a 9" Pro250 showed up for us to take a look at.

On unboxing, apart from the colour which was gloss black rather the standard anodised alloy, the light looked quite familiar as it pretty much, unless I'm mistaken, shares the same outer case (or housing) as my original Pro9. Digging further into the box and pulling out a 12v/24v step-up converter was when I started to think, now this is different. The package includes the light itself, step-up converter, 3.5m of cable from the light, 1.5m of cable from the converter including a Maxi fuse holder and 30-amp fuse ending

in an Anderson-type plug. Completing the kit was a toggle switch, handful of electrical connectors, information sheet and warranty certificate with Powa Beam bumper sticker.

Specification-wise for the 9" Pro250 we have a 245mm reflector sitting in a 265mm case with overall depth of 190mm. Designed for use with a remote system the base is an all-steel bracket with 12mm mounting hole, the light source as standard being a Quartz Halogen 24v 250W Osram horizontal filament bulb which is claimed to produce optimal light output vs heat and lifespan ratio. As an optional accessory you can swap this for a vertical filament bulb for an even longer and tighter beam if desired. All new Powa Beam spotlights also feature durable ultra-clear tough glass for the lens and adjustable focus of the bulb for a tighter beam or broader spread.

When it came to installation, after reading the information sheet at first I must say I felt a little daunted. The 250W light with step-up converter has a high current draw - up to 22-amp - so there's a warning to only use it with full battery on a running vehicle with capable alternator (Powa Beam also recommend using an auto electrician for installation or seeking professional advice). My concern was whether the old Feroza with its smaller battery than your standard ute or 4x4 - and which only gets turned

over every other week or so - would handle the big light. Likewise would the alternator be up to it? So I heeded the advice and called my mate Johnny, a professional automotive accessory installer who assured me I'd nothing to fear.

Hooking it up was actually no problem as all the essentials are supplied, the only thing not provided being another Anderson plug and some cable to connect to the battery. A quick search online found exactly what was needed and for \$15 I bought an Anderson plug with short heavy 6mm cable to 8mm cable lugs, perfect for the job. This bolted up straight on to the existing battery terminal clamps so, once I had the rest wired in, I just had to join the Anderson plugs together



Powa Beam 250W spotlights come in 7", 9" and 11" options.

to power it all up. On standby the light still draws 100mA so the Anderson plugs can also act as an effective isolation point by just unplugging when not in use.

I made a small metal mounting plate for the step-up converter to take advantage of some unused bolt holes on the firewall of my Feroza which I assume would've been for air-con had it ever been fitted. Likewise there was a grommet in the firewall I could also use so I ran the cable through that to behind the dash, up along the B-pillar trim, into the hood lining to the remote handle, all-in-all a neat installation. The light itself was just a straight swap on to the remote handle replacing the old light and, as stated, everything I needed was otherwise provided.

Of course my spotlight is roof-mounted but if you want to run the same type of rig without punching a hole through your roof, Powa Beam also do their 'Powa Strut Window Mount' set-up which lets you fix the spotlight to your door frame without modifying the vehicle. In use, the 250W over my old 100W unit is basically more of a good thing made better. My country is pretty steep around parts with several valleys and gullies and a bit of flat land towards the front. I'm mainly shooting well below 200m under the spotlight though the occasional longer shot across a gully isn't unusual.

I have a 300 x 300mm gong on a hillside 400m away and in darkness could pick it up as clear as day with the big 250W on it, so this new light should prove

popular for targets at distance across Australia's long plains. Each Powa Beam spotlight is hand-focused at the factory before it leaves to produce the optimum beam. The Pro250 delivered a light beam tight enough to spy things at long distance, at the same time providing ample spread for holding the beam just off target on flighty quarry and picking them off on the edges of the beam. I often find roos sit better too with this approach rather than lighting them up like daylight with the beam straight on them.

Apart from being a great product there are other reasons to consider Powa Beam if you're after a new spotlight, as never more so than in recent times have we heard the call for more local resilience and the need to support local manufacture. Well, all main Powa Beam components including cases and reflectors are made in Victoria before being shipped to their facility in Billinudgel, NSW where they're assembled and tested before distribution. And in the unlikely event anything goes wrong with your spotlight you can rest easy knowing any spares, accessories or upgrades required are available direct from Powa Beam in Australia. The spotlights come with a three-year

limited warranty but based on my experience you're unlikely to need it.

After more than 60 years in business Powa Beam are a genuine Australian success story and, based on the quality of their products, I'm sure they'll be around for many more years to come. **Find more at [www.powabeam.com.au](http://www.powabeam.com.au)** ●

**Using the Pro250, Daniel easily illuminates a gong 400m away, providing ample shooting light at this distance and more.**



## Specifications:

- Reflector size:** 245mm (diameter)
- Casing size:** 265mm (diameter) x 190mm (depth)
- Voltage:** 12v with step-up converter to 24v
- Power:** 250W
- Light type:** Quartz halogen (QH)
- Beam type:** Adjustable from spot to spread
- Base:** Steel bracket with 12mm mounting hole



Pro250 Powa Beam spotlight kit, Anderson plug lead in foreground not included.