

Fitting a Masina Kuaka into a Perko Stern light



Take out the screw and the top of the fitting lifts off. You can now remove the lens and side panels.

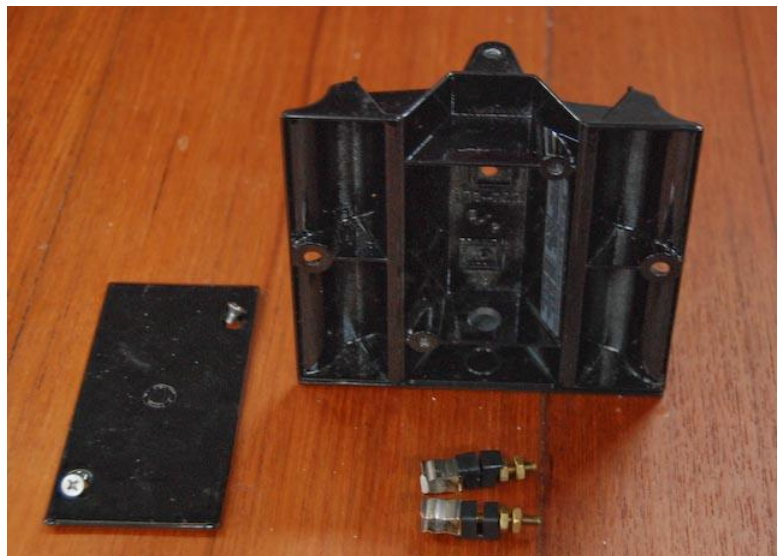


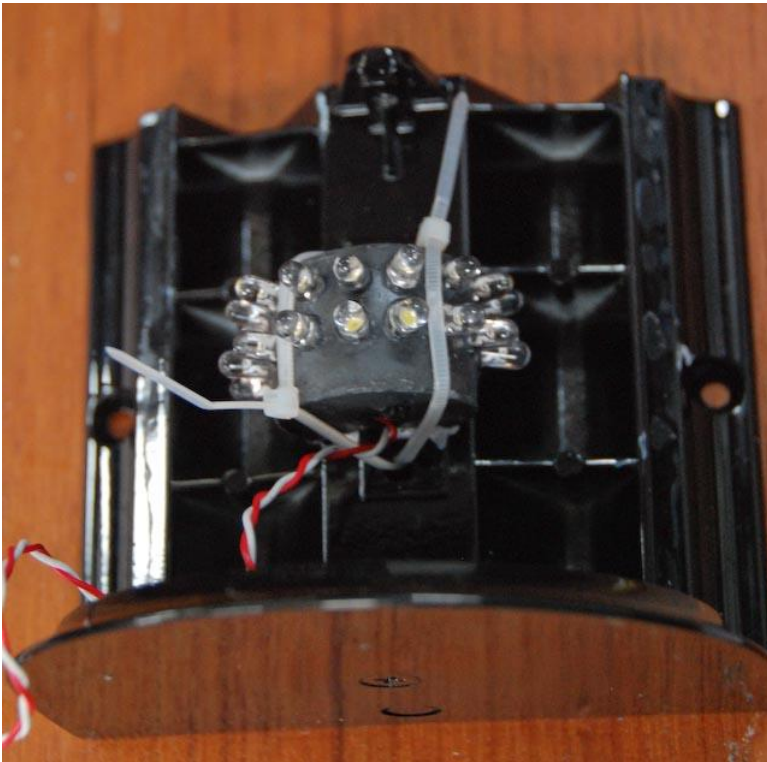
The lens was stuck to the side panels with what looked like a thin layer of foam and double sided tape, on ours it wasn't difficult to pull it away as the adhesive was past its best – then the side panels came away as they weren't glued very well either! This was a fitting that had never been used. Truth be known, once I'd lifted off the top and gently pulled on the lens, it broke into two pieces leaving about a third of it in the fitting. As I removed the rest of it, the side panels came away. For something that looked and felt so substantial, it wasn't! Anyway, moving on....

Next, attack the back.

Remove the two grub screws to get the back plate off and then remove the festoon bulb and its terminal fittings by undoing the two small screws and nuts.

(I toyed with leaving them in so I could support the Masina and wire to their terminals, but decided it would be tidier to remove them completely. After all, with the build quality of bebi lights, I am hardly likely to need to put back a festoon light at a later date. I also preferred a soldered or crimped connection so out they came!)





A layer of 291 sealant onto the back of the masina kuaka and it was put into place.

(I didn't use a glue gun, because although we have two back in our house half a world away, there isn't one on the boat! Yet. So, at this point If you've used sealant, I reckon it should be set aside to cure so when you do the next bit, you don't get it all over the leds or the FET)

To add a bit more security, thread two cable ties through the holes in the back of the perko fitting, and over the front of the masina.

(I used the narrowest we had so it would fit between the LEDs and still leave room for the wires to go through to the back of the fitting.)

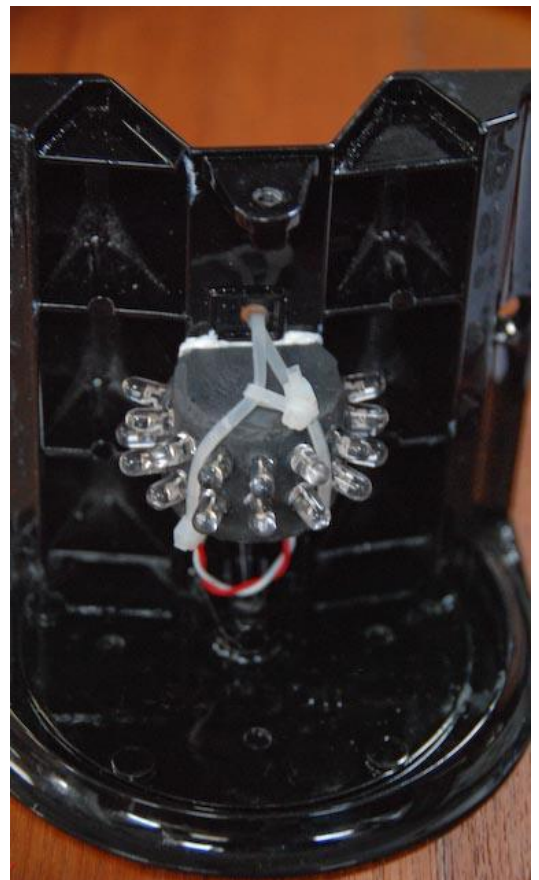
Then gently tighten each one equally, making sure they aren't pulling on the leds, (or pulling the masina off-centre, if like me, you just want to get the job done now and can't wait for the sealant to cure. At this point I also added a cable tie to pull them together, to take any strain off the leds)

Now thread the wire to the back through the hole.

Reassemble the fitting: Put a layer of silicon along the bottom and up the sides, bed the side panels in to place, add layer of silicon to them then fit lens into place. I didn't glue the lid on, just screwed it on as it was originally, I won't need to change the 'light bulb' but I might want to clean the lens!

Thread the power cable through the grommet, connect using soldered or crimped joint and replace the back panel.

On reflection, before I fit it onto the boat, I'm going to enlarge the cable hole, fit a waterproof cable entry thingy to grip the wire, and I'll put a gasket on the back plate.



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