

**The Unofficial
2005 Lotus Elise
Headlight
Upgrade
Installation Guide**

Headlight Upgrade Installation Guide



The standard Elise headlights are pretty dull. Lotus offers a headlight upgrade kit for around \$32 (price subject to change). They claim this upgrade increases light output by 50%. Honestly I'm not sure that I can tell any difference with the new lights fitted. Fortunately this guide will also be useful should you decide to go ahead and upgrade to a HID lighting system. Give yourself at least 1 hour to complete this installation.

What you need:

1. Philips head screwdriver.
2. Hex/Allen key size 3/16th inch.
3. 11/16th inch socket.
4. Socket wrench.

Please note: You will only need the 11/16th inch socket should you wish to remove the headlight assembly. Some may find this step unnecessary.

Begin by removing the front inner panel. Two plastic screws and one metal screw secure this panel. The plastic screws can actually be removed by fingers.



The metal screw is located high inside the wheel well. The picture below shows its location.



Tip: It is not necessary to remove the rear portion of the inside cover. The covers are not riveted together. The rivets attach to a small metal plate not to the rear panel.

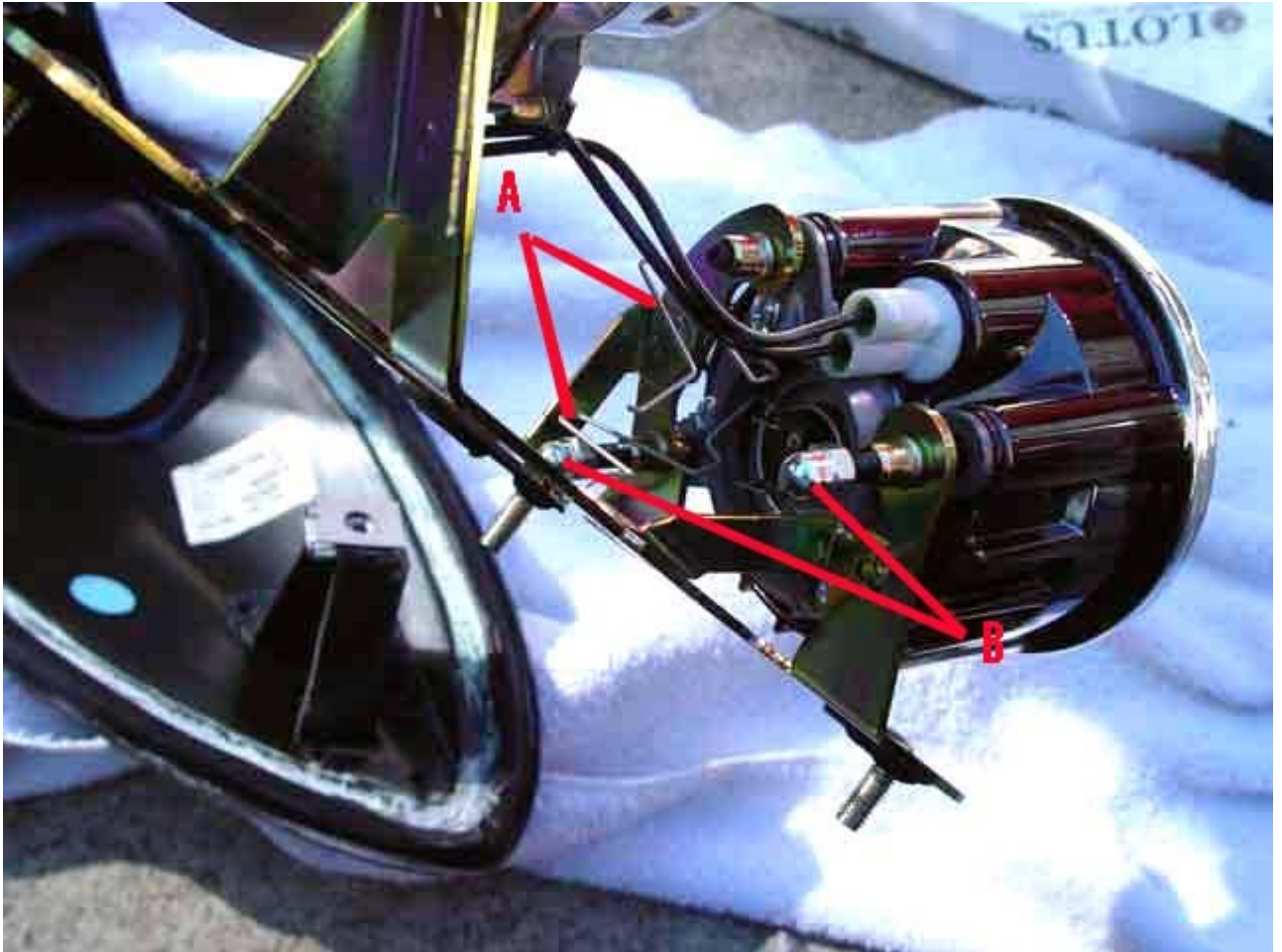
Once the panel is removed you will see three nuts that secure the headlight mounting assembly. You will also see three hex type screws. The hex screws are used to secure the transparent plastic headlight cover. Remove the three hex screws using the Allen key. Now you can proceed to remove the headlight cover. Below is a picture of the headlight with the cover removed.



If you have small fingers it might be possible to remove the bulb without removing the entire headlight assembly. I however chose to remove the whole assemble so that I could see exactly how the bulbs are secured.

To remove the headlight assembly, remove the three remaining bolts using the socket wrench. Once removed you will notice several thumb screws that are used to adjust the positioning of the lamp. The top projector lamp is the normal/low-beam. The bottom reflector lamp is the high-beam lamp. This is the one that the kit is designed to replace.

Below is a picture of the removed headlight assembly.



The bulb is secured by a spring type lock mechanism. This is marked as (A) in the above illustration. To remove the bulb, grasp the spring between your fingers and squeeze the two sides together and pull upward to release. The bulb is the easily pulled free now. Obviously there are wires connected to the various bulbs that must be removed first, however they use fairly common connection methods so instruction on how to disconnect them is unnecessary. Although you may not need to adjust the headlight I have nonetheless marked the thumbscrew adjusters as (B).

Reassembly simply requires reversing the removal process. I hope this guide is of use to you when doing your headlight upgrades. Have fun and drive safe.