



# WORKING WITH GR&M STROBE LIGHT & BEACON KITS

**This instruction sheet will cover working with all of our Strobe Light & Beacon kits. The top section will cover basics, and then we will highlight individual kits should they have any special instructions.**

Please contact us with an questions.

## Painting Clear Parts

I suggest Tamiya Translucent (X-23 Blue, X-24 Yellow, X-25 Green, X-26 Orange and X-27 Red) colors to paint the “dome” or “lens” portion of the light assembly while still on the support sprue. Paint the dome/lens area first and let dry. Two coats may be needed. For those with a clear dome/lens, use a thin coat of gloss clear.

To paint the base portions: For those smaller strobe lights that are one piece, paint the dome first as the above states. Once it is dry, using a very fine brush, paint the base portion with aluminum or body color of choice (I suggest Testors Silver). Be slow and patient, I recommend using an optivisor. You want fresh paints, on the thinner side so as to not glop up the fine detail of the parts. Two coats are suggested to help prevent any light bleed through.

For those kits that are now supplied with a separate dome/lens, you can paint the base portion with either an airbrush using the model color of your choice, or a silver/aluminum paint color (I like to use Tru-Color 013 Aluminum). Should you prefer to brush paint it, follow the directions above.

## Mounting

Our kits are supplied with 4 styles of mounting bases:

- #1)** A solid stem or mounting pin
- #2)** a hollow mounting body
- #3)** no mounting portion (two-piece strobes)
- #4)** a solid body, with a hollow LED recess.

We will supply the pin/body size holes below in the individual part listings.

For those with stems/pins/body's (**#1 & 2**), drill your appropriate size hole. After, you will need to lightly ream the top of the hole. Because we print the parts vertically, this can sometimes trap resin on the lower edges (see **green** portion of graphic to the right). Simply open your hole using a small reamer, or a countersink. It won't take much, just be sure to test fit as you go to make sure the part sits totally flat.



For those with no mounting base option (**#3**), drill your hole for your LED. Mount the base portion using a few drops of canopy glue. Be sure to wipe off any excess using a toothpick or wire.

For those with an LED recess (**#4**), drill your hole for your LED. Attach the LED into your painted strobe light using a drop of canopy glue. Let this dry. Attach assembly to the shell using a few more drops of canopy glue. Be sure to wipe off any excess using a toothpick or wire.

## Lighting

For those kits that use the **#1 style** with a mounting pin/stem: After mounting your light, simply glue the LED of your choice to the base of the stem inside the shell. You can use either canopy glue, or CA so you can hit it with a CA kicker for a quick, solid glue joint. I recommend using an 0402 size LED (this is the “Pico” size Evans LED). “Black Out” the LED with a piece of electrical tape or black paint to prevent any light bleeding inside your shell.

For those kits that use the **#2 & #3 style**: you will be able to insert an LED inside of the body. You will need an 0201 size LED (this is the “Z” size Evans LED). Insert the LED into the body and secure it with a dot of canopy glue. Make sure the LED sits as low as it can go so it does not interfere with the lens installation.

For those with an LED recess (#4), you will need an 0201 size LED (this is the “Z” size Evans LED). Insert the LED into the recess and secure it with a dot of canopy glue. Depending on how well the LED was assembled, you may need to do a small counterbore on the shell to make sure the whole assembly sits flat.

Attach your LED’s to the decoder output of your choice and set up the appropriate flash rate you desire. You must turn the power output down as much as possible in the programming, so you do not overpower the solid painted portions of the part, and only the “lens” area flashes and prevents any light from bleeding through.

### **Individual Specific Instructions**

#### **#1000, 1001: Prime 8901, 8911 & 8913 “Stratolites” – Base Style #3**

These kits were designed to use the Aaron Heine Electronics RB-1 effect unit. Unfortunately, these are out of production (we really hope they come back!). Insert the effect unit into the dome portion with a drop of canopy glue.

The Rapido #102106 “rotary beacon” effect unit will also work in these, however the Rapido unit uses larger sized LED’s, thus they will not fit all the way into the dome. This has not proven to be an issue, as it still shows plenty of light and you get the proper stratolite effect.

Simply inserting an LED into the dome is another simple option as well.

Once in a great while, one of the domes will not be fully clean and there will be trapped resin inside that did not get washed out. Unfortunately, we can not tell without removing them from the support sprue. Should you receive one like this, let us know and we will be glad to send some fresh ones.

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#### **#1002: Federal 372 Commander Rotary Beacon – Base Style #2 & 3**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting.

Mounting Body is 1.9mm/.074”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red, Blue, Green, Clear

\* Kits shipped after 7/2024 include both base styles #2 & #3. Older kits only have Style #3.

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#### **#1003: Federal 271 Commander Rotary Beacon – Base Style #3**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting.

Mounting Body is 1.9mm/.074”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red

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#### **#1004: Pyle 15360 Gyalite Rotary Beacon – Base Style #4**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting & lighting.

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red, Clear

To light this – you must use an 0201 size LED (Evans “Z” size). Glue it into the recess in the base using a dot of canopy glue. Let this fully dry before installing on your model.

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#### **#1005: Modified Pyle 15360 w/ Tomar 804 Strobe Light**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting & lighting.

To light this – you must use an 0201 size LED (Evans “Z” size). Glue it into the recess in the base using a dot of canopy glue. Let this fully dry before installing on your model.

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**#1006: Modified Pyle 15360 Saturn 6551 “Reflectolite” Strobe Light**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting & lighting.

To light this – you must use an 0201 size LED (Evans “Z” size). Glue it into the recess in the base using a dot of canopy glue. Let this fully dry before installing on your model.

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**#1007: Star 200BC Strobe Light– Base Style #4**

While still on the support sprue, paint the strobe light lens portion **(green)** of the base assembly.

If you are using this as an R/C light, use translucent amber (Tamiya X26).

If you are modeling a white strobe light (Amtrak, Commuter engines) use an aluminum color. Do not worry about this being a translucent color, as the LED flash will make the proper lighting effect.

You can also use any of the other translucent colors should you want another color strobe light.

Paint the outside of the dome part with a very light coat of gloss clear. Let dry fully. Carefully remove the domes and set them onto a piece of tape.

Paint the inside of the dome with a very light coat of gloss clear also. Let dry fully. The gloss clear paint is what makes the part fully translucent.

After everything is dry, paint the lower portion of the base **(red)** aluminum or grey, being careful not to get any paint on the lens portion.

Attach the dome using a tiny drop of canopy glue.

To light this – you must use an 0201 size LED (Evans “Z” size). Glue it into the recess in the base using a dot of canopy glue. Let this fully dry before installing on your model.



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**#1008, 1009: Tomar 804 Strobe Light– Base Style #1**

These strobes are supplied on a runner of sort. Simply clip them off at the base after painting.

Mounting stem is 1.3mm/.051”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red, Clear, Blue, Purple, Green

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**#1010: Warn-A-Lite 851 Strobe Light– Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1.3mm/.051”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red

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**#1011: Federal Signal 851 Strobe Light– Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1.3mm/.051”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red

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**#1012: Saturn 6551 “Reflectolite” Strobe Light– Base Style #2 & 3**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting.

Mounting Body is 1.5mm/.059”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Clear

\* Kits shipped in 2024 include both base styles #2 & #3. Older kits have style #1, with a mounting stem 1.3mm/.051”

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**#1013: Safety Products 52-4/Saturn 6552 “Reflectolite” Strobe Light– Base Style #2 & 3**

**#1014: SOO Line “Mini” Strobe Light– Base Style #1**

These strobes are supplied on a runner of sort. Simply clip them off at the base after painting.

Mounting stem is 1.25mm/.049”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red

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**#1015: Tri-Light Rotary Beacon– Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1.75mm/.068”

*This kit is under revision*

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**#1016: Whelen Mini Strobe Light– Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1.3mm/.051”

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**#1017: DT&I Rotary Beacon**

*This kit is under revision*

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**#1018: Saturn Mini Strobe Light – Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1 mm/.039”

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**#1019: Generic Construction Light – Base Style #1**

Paint & install following the basic instructions on the top of this page, nothing specific for this kit.

Mounting stem is 1 mm/.039”

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**#1020: Tuff Flash LL1200 Strobe Light – Base Style #4**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting & lighting.

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Clear

To light this – you must use an 0201 size LED (Evans “Z” size). Glue it into the recess in the base using a dot of canopy glue. Let this fully dry before installing on your model.

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**#1023: Mars GP363 Rotary Beacon – Base Style #2 & 3**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. You may need to give them the base a very light sanding. Follow the above instructions for mounting.

Mounting Body is 1.85mm/.072”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red

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**#1027: R/C Locomotive Status Lights – Base Style #1**

I would recommend painting these on the sprue. Once dry, pop them off the supports. Unfortunately, the support is small enough that one or two may pop off the sprue during shipping. If that is the case, simply hold the part with a set of locking tweezers to paint. The base of these strobes are cast aluminum, in some cases they are painted the body color of the locomotive, but rarely.

Light indications vary depending on which system is installed on the individual locomotive, but two options:

1 -

- Red – Brake Applied
- Green – Throttle in use
- White – Forward
- Amber – Reverse

2 –

- Red – Stopped
  - Green – Moving
- Direction indicated by a separate strobe on each end of the engine.

Mounting Body is .8mm/.031”

Lens Colors we have seen: Amber, Red, Clear, Purple, Blue, Green

**Version 2 – 3/26/25**