

ADAC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club e.V), the largest German Automobile Club with over 15 million members, published in November the results of extensive tests on Xenon headlamps, conducted with the cooperation of Hella, to evaluate whether Xenon light was worth the price for the driver in terms of safety and performance.



Aiming operation

The tests were performed on 5 car models, comparing Halogen and Xenon equipped versions. Test cars were VW Golf 6, Opel Insignia, Skoda Superb, Mercedes E-Klasse, Nissan Qashqai. A full LED HL equipped car, the Audi R8 was also tested, to compare this new technology with Xenon.

This evaluation proves the enormous advantage of Xenon in terms of good and safe light, and concludes Xenon lights are well worth their price.



From left to right: VW Golf 6, Opel Insignia, Skoda Superb, Mercedes E-Klasse, Nissan Qashqai, all Halogen equipped and the same cars Xenon equipped, Audi R8.



Safer road with xenon light

Talking about feeling:

- The widespread perception amongst drivers that Xenon light is dangerous because of disability glare for the opposite vehicle was not confirmed by the ADAC test results.
- On the contrary, Xenon is even less bright than halogen light, said Testleiter Martin Ruhdorfer from ADAC. The effect is purely psychological.
- Many drivers make the mistake to look directly into the lights of the in-coming cars. But they should in principle overlook the light.

Xenon will light the road better and allow adaptative lighting thanks to its generous quantity of

light.

The results of the evaluation are detailed in table below:

Light	Mer E-class		Nissan Qashquai		Opel Insignia		Skoda Superb		VW Golf		Audi R8
	Halogen	Xenon	Halogen	Xenon	Halogen	Xenon	Halogen	Xenon	Halogen	Xenon	
ADAC evaluation	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,5
Price Xenon Option	1.090 €		500 €		1.250 €		995 €		1290 €	1.990 €	
Xenon added performance	2,5		2,5		2,5		2,5		2,5	2,5	
ADAC opinion	Worth it		Not worth		Worth it		Worth it		Worth it	Worth it	
Scoring	Project	Project	Ref	Ref	Project	Project	Project	Ref	Project	Project	
Bechling light	80	200	80	80	200	200	200	80	200	200	80
Contrast	80	200	80	80	200	200	200	80	200	200	80
Adaptability	80	200	80	80	200	200	200	80	200	200	80
Fog light	200	80	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Price	200	200	80	80	200	200	80	200	200	200	200

***0,6 to 1,5 = very good - 1,6 to 2,5 = good - 2,6 to 3,5 = satisfactory- 3,6 to 4,5 = sufficient;
Source ADAC November 2009

The only exception is the **Nissan Qashquai** Xenon system which offers no advantages over its good halogen light, because it lacks the proper lens system, which should focus the light in the requested direction.

For all other Xenon light tested, the advantage of Xenon is enormous, with a special mention for the **Skoda Superb**. You get the car with a Xenon light for a reasonable surcharge.

The **Mercedes E-Class** Xenon version is only slightly better than that of the Superb, but costs almost €700 more.

But the E-Class with Xenon headlamps wins substantially against the same model with Halogen. Illumination, scope and lateral light are clearly better.

The **VW Golf** Xenon Model does not show out the full potential of the technology. The surcharge for Xenon is €1,295 also quite high. But the halogen light of the Golf rated with a poor “sufficient” underlines the vital importance of the Xenon light option.

The same opinion is given with the **Opel Insignia** halogen light only “sufficient”. The scope is too short, the emission of both beams unbalanced and the light in curves too weak.

The Xenon variant is considerably better because it offers, the ADAC quotes, more security.

The money for the Xenon-package is well spent for the **Opel Insignia**.

The **Audi R8** occupies a special position in this test. He is the first production car of all-LED headlights. This light can exceed the test winner Mercedes E-class, yet the result is impressive. The high contrast of the illuminated area gives the driver a high sense of security. Even more impressive is the effect of the high beam, the ADAC said.