

Review: Flashing Bike Pedals By Pedalite

From [David Fiedler](#),
Your Guide to [Bicycling](#).
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Pedalite, Ltd.

Pedalite Pedals Offer 360 Degrees of Safety

Guide Rating - ★★★★★

[Manufacturer's Site](#)

Already popular in Europe, Pedalite is introducing its blinking pedals to the North American market with new models for 2008. These pedals will increase your visibility to motorists when you're on the bike, particularly during common commute times in the early morning and evening periods, as well as in overcast conditions.

A Safe Rider is a Happy Rider

The Pedalite pedals have a lot to like about them. While at first glance they just look like standard platform pedals with a wide, non-slip rubber-like surface and supergrip metal studs, there is a notable difference. The marvel of Pedalite pedals is that they also feature built-in lights that start blinking like a disco as soon as the cyclist begins turning of the pedals. There are no batteries that need to be replaced, making it environmentally friendly, and it holds enough juice to keep the lights blinking strongly at stoplights or when you're freewheeling for up to five minutes more.

I'm all for visibility on the bike, and so my opinion is that anything that allows you to be more prominent to motorists is a good thing. The blinking strobe-type lights embedded in the Pedalite pedals flash white from the front and red from the back and are visible from a long ways off -- 1 km, according to Pedalite.

Just as important too are the amber lights that flash from the side. Not only do the blinking pedals make a bike seem wider to motorists approaching from the rear, prompting cars to give it a wider berth, but many car/bike collisions occur at intersections, and so this extra visibility and attention added to the side of the bike is a real plus.

No Loss of Performance



Blinking lights on the front side and back offer enhanced visibility to motorists.
(c) Pedalite International, Ltd.

How do they perform? Well, you're not going to put them on your racing bike. That's obviously not their intent. But they're certainly not going to slow you down, either, especially given the type of urban/commuter riding that will be the most common use for the product.

The Pedalite package encourages you to spin the spindle to try them out, so if you're standing in a store you'd be able to observe the flashing for yourself. And I did, before I put them on my bike. As I turned the pedals, I could feel the slightest pull of the alternator that generates the charge for the lights and it went away completely as soon as I put the pedals on the bike and went out for a ride. The performance was the just same as the mid-range pedals that I had on the bike before, and I knew I was glad for the extra visibility.

Popular With European Cyclists

Pedalite pedals are already sold in 22 countries around the world. To give you an idea of how they've been received in Europe, Pedalite pedals are standard equipment offered to participants in the bike commuter program promoted by the British government that allows workers to buy bikes and specific bike equipment tax-free over 18 months via salary deduction.

Additionally, a number of European emergency services organizations with personnel on bikes have outfitted their bicycle fleet with Pedalites because of the enhanced safety and visibility the pedals offer.

You May Want to Pass on the Toe Clips



Pedalite offers toeclips to go with the pedals that will make them comparable, performance-wise, to any other standard pedals on the market. If I were you though, I might take a pass on the toeclips. While they do offer more efficiency to your pedaling, Pedalite's toe clips are made from a hard plastic shell and are not adjustable to take into account different size feet and differing types of footwear.