

## Falcon LE Bicycle Helmet

by **Rob Peterson, PCI #765**

*Las Cruces PD (NM)*

The Falcon LE (Law Enforcement) bicycle helmet is patent pending, first-of-its-kind, and the most innovative bicycle helmet on the market today. Building lightweight and almost undetectable LED lighting into a bicycle helmet is a “no-brainer” and has been needed for some time. The CPSC-certified helmet is manufactured in China specifically for Falcon helmets. The lithium ion rechargeable battery includes a proprietary circuitry protection chip that guards against over-charging and is low voltage. The battery has a shelf and usage life of three years and will maintain its charge even when not in use. It has an impressive 13-hour continuous use life when fully charged and one can only imagine how long it would last with only periodic usage. Product representative Kerry Harris pledges that they will replace the entire helmet free of charge if there is ever a problem with the battery.

This system was designed to be used in any helmet platform – bicycle or motorcycle –and they offer products for both. It was designed specifically as a safety feature providing illumination during darkness, but the applications for this technology are seemingly endless and only limited by one’s imagination. This application has been adapted to two other helmet designs, although the Falcon LE and in-mold Predator Series will have designs specifically catering to law enforcement. These helmets come in two basic colors for law enforcement (white/black) or may be requested in red for EMS personnel. Lettering on the helmets can be requested in reflective or non-reflective material.

This product was extensively tested, not only by my Targeting Neighborhood Threats Unit, but also by Officer Steve Bazany and his fellow bicycle officers in San Antonio, Texas. After five months of use, Steve has already placed a substantial order.

The helmet was utilized during both day and nighttime hours and was put through rigorous testing. During daytime hours, the lighting is obviously less visible than at night, but the two red LED lights on the back of the helmet can be seen even in bright sunlight. During darkness, the lights are extremely bright and the small headlight can often be used for limited tasks as well, even though it was not originally designed for that purpose. Steve added that the light can be used when approaching vehicles to both temporarily blind the driver and illuminate the interior of the vehicle as well.

The Falcon LE far exceeds its intended use as a safety product and is even more remarkable when you consider that it has limited usage as a task-oriented light source.

Acting on suggestions from different agencies, the company has begun working on task lighting that may be used in conjunction with the helmet to fit specific needs. For instance, they are currently designing a moveable LED light that can be positioned to provide sufficient lighting for writing tickets, reading paperwork, etc.

The helmet is recharged via a plug-in charger that plugs directly into the helmet. This helmet plug has been designed to also be used as a power port that can facilitate other lighting as new technology is designed. We are eagerly awaiting the auxiliary task-specific light currently in development. We’ve also suggested that they install another switch on the helmet that would allow independent use of the headlight and rear lights. Because the company actively solicits ideas from officers that might make their helmet better for the law enforcement professional, we expect them to follow up on this suggestion.

The Falcon LE helmet is expected to have a \$70 price tag while the Predator Series in-mold helmet will be a bit higher at \$120-\$130. If you are interested in learning more about the Falcon LE bicycle helmet or purchasing them for your department, visit one of the A.S.C.A. Technology websites at [www.ascatech.com](http://www.ascatech.com) or [www.ihtechnology.com](http://www.ihtechnology.com). For more information from a representative, contact Kerry Harris at [kharris@amakosiglobal.com](mailto:kharris@amakosiglobal.com) or (877) 497-1666. In my opinion, we can’t have too many tools to ensure we go home safely at the end of our shift. It makes perfect sense to have this one, especially since you’ll never even know it’s there...until you need it.

*Rob is an IPMBA PC Instructor and a Conference Workshop presenter. He has been a bicycle officer for six years and is a founding member of the Targeting Neighborhood Threats Unit. He can be reached at [rpeterson@las-cruces.org](mailto:rpeterson@las-cruces.org).*

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