

Volkswagen Cabriolet Headlight Types

7" Sealed-beam



A 7" round Halogen, dual-filament sealed-beam headlamp with lens optics that came stock on Cabriolets sold in North America. These headlamps are usually marked with "DOT" on the lens. If your Cabriolet has the dual-round set-up, these headlamps are the *outer* lights and are both hi- and lo-beam.

9003/HB2 /H4



A 7" round headlamp and dual-filament bulb assembly that looks like a sealed-beam headlamp that uses a replaceable H4 or 9003/HB2 bulb. The H4s came standard on European cars (see E-code below). The 9003/HB2 is the DOT's version of the H4, but these were never installed on the cars at the factory. The two bulb types are slightly different: the H4 is designed for E-codes, while the 9003/HB2 bulbs are designed for DOT. All, however, use the same socket pattern.

H3



A 5" headlamp and single-filament bulb assembly that looks like a sealed-beam headlamp (H3 can also refer to just the bulb). Once the H3 headlamp assembly is installed, only the H3 bulb requires replacement when burned out. A small variety of wattages, up to 100W, for the H3 bulbs is available. If your Cabriolet has the dual-round set-up, these headlamps are the inner lights and are hi-beam only (they are **not** driving lights, nor are they fog lights!).

E-code / ECE



European-spec (ECE) headlamp. Has a slightly different (and better) beam pattern than a U.S.-spec (DOT) headlamp and are identified by the "E" logo on the lens. E-codes are now legal in North America, but USA states are still free to ban them (check with your state's laws). These lamps usually use the H4 and H3 bulbs listed above. These lamps come with a higher initial cost than sealed-beam lamps, and one replacement bulb can cost as much as a pair of sealed-beam lamps. However, replacing just the bulb is much more convenient, and these lamps can be used with higher wattage bulbs than what the sealed beams come with.

City Light



"City light" is a European term for a 5-watt parking light found on the front of European cars and is located inside the headlamp housing, or inside the turn signal housing. The reason for these lights: When parking on the street at night, the right or left (depending on which side of the street the car is parked) "city light" is to be illuminated. City lights are not required in the North America, but they come in handy if you've eliminated your Cabriolet's stock bumper lights or have swapped your Cabriolet's North American bumpers to Euro bumpers. City lights come installed in both headlight housings (not shown) and bumper light housings (shown above).

Angel-eye



Type of headlamp that produces a halo-effect when illuminated. Predominantly used as a cosmetic replacement. Available as both outer (H4) and inner (H3) lamps. Available with lens optics and without. The H4 angel-eye headlamps are also available with cross-hairs and/or smoked.

HID



HID stands for high-intensity discharge. Rather than a glowing filament, this type of lamp produces light by an electric spark arcing across a gap inside a Xenon gas-filled capsule. This type of lamp produces a brighter, truer-white beam of light. Very expensive type of headlamp. These bulbs also cause glare problems for oncoming drivers because HID bulbs are designed for use in projector housings. These bulbs should not be installed in standard H4/9003/HB2 headlamps!

Crystal Clear



Headlamps that have no lens optics. They come in both 7" and 5" sizes and are also available smoked. These lamps usually use the H4 and H3 bulbs listed above and, aside from a wattage upgrade from the stock sealed beams, these headlamps are cosmetic replacements and are usually not street-legal.

Cross-hair



Headlamps that have a "cross target" built inside. They come in both 7" and 5" sizes and are also available smoked, as well as with angel-eyes. These lamps usually use the H4 and H3 bulbs listed above and, aside from a wattage upgrade from the stock sealed beams, these headlamps are mostly cosmetic replacements and are usually not street-legal..

Note 1: If you live in a state that requires bi-/annual vehicle inspections (not to be confused with emissions tests!), using headlamps *not* stamped with "DOT" may result in a failed inspection.

Note 2: If you are upgrading the headlamps to higher-powered versions, you should add relays to the headlight circuit (refer to the [DIY relay guide](#)) to get the most out of your new headlights and to prevent overloading the electrical system (higher-powered headlamps = higher current draw).

Where to buy these headlamps:

GermanAutoParts.com

TMTuning.com

PGPerformance.com

Concept1.ca

eBay.com