



Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies

**Specialising in
moth traps and
related equipment**

THE ALS WHAT BULB GUIDE?

This guide covers a selection of the most widely used bulbs in moth traps. High powered MV bulbs (250w and above) and metal halide lamps are not discussed. We stock all of these lamps and electrical components and can also provide components for high power applications (250 and 400W) systems upon request.

125w MV bulb.

This is the standard moth trappers bulb, used by most enthusiasts. It is a bright, high intensity lamp that will give good catches. It does run hot and will need protection from cold spring and autumn rain or summer downpours. Rain Guards are available from ALS.

Key Features:

- Good catch
- Needs a choke/control box
- Bright - may be unsuitable for built up areas
- Bulb runs hot - may need protection from rain with a rain guard
- Requires 240V power supply (mains/generator)

80w MV bulb.

Like the 125w bulb, but less often used. Some argument recently has centred on these bulbs attracting more moths inside the trap as opposed to outside the trap, which may be the case in enclosed trapping areas such as woodland. Typically these bulbs are used in traps being run off generators, as their lower current consumption means that more traps can be run simultaneously.

Key Features:

- Good catch but slightly less than 125W
- Needs a choke/control box
- Bright - may be unsuitable for built up areas
- Bulb runs hot - may need protection from rain
- Requires 240V power supply (mains/generator)

160w Blended bulb.

This is another lamp that is not widely used but which does have its advantages. Blended bulbs consist of both a tungsten and mercury vapour filament. The major advantage is that they do not need a choke, unlike the two previously mentioned lamps. This also makes them an ideal choice if you are venturing abroad; you will not need that heavy choke. The disadvantages are that they will not catch as much as the 125w MV bulbs and will run even hotter and are consequently very prone to damage by rain. If damaged they can explode and throw the glass. **WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THESE BULBS FOR PUBLIC EVENTS.**

Key Features:

- Good catch but slightly less than 125W. Similar to 80W MV
- No need for choke/control box. Runs directly from the mains
- Bright - may be unsuitable for built up areas
- Bulb runs very hot - Needs protection from rain with ALS bulb guard.
- Requires 240V power supply (mains/generator)

125w Black bulb. Note this bulb is no longer available

Black bulbs are very expensive pieces of equipment. The price is probably only justified in very special situations. They are similar to MV bulbs but contain an internal coating that adsorbs much of the emitted visible light giving rise to a dim ghostly glow. Typically they will be used in built up areas where the low light emission will not disturb the neighbours. They are, in our experience, much less efficient at catching moths than MV bulbs. In addition they run much hotter than MV bulbs and therefore the likelihood of damage to the expensive bulb during rain is high.

Key Features:

- Catch relatively poor
- Needs a choke/control box
- Low visible light emission
- Bulb runs hot - may need protection from rain
- Requires 240V power supply (mains/generator)

15w/30w actinic tube.

This type of tube has many advantages over MV type bulbs. They consist of a tube similar to standard lighting fluorescent tubes but designed to emit preferentially in the UV spectrum. They are similar to the type of fly zapper units used in food production areas and emit a dull blue glow. They run cool compared to MV lamps and therefore do not need protection from rain. They are ideal in built up areas because of low visible light emission. Although they will not catch as much as MV bulbs they *will*, in our experience, catch as much and often more than 125w black bulbs. They can also be operated, with suitable control gear, from a 12V power source such as a car battery. Hence portable operation can be achieved without the expense of purchasing a generator. This unit is rapidly growing in popularity.

Key Features:

- Catch slightly less than 80W MV (similar with the twin 30w unit)
- Needs control box
- Low visible light emission
- Tube runs cold - no need to protect tube from rain

- Control boxes available for 240V and 12V power sources