

Instruction 510-0481
09-10-18

Version 1

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Installation Instructions: S&S 4.250" Bore Cylinder & Piston Kits for M8 2017-'18

DISCLAIMER:

Many S&S parts are designed for high performance, closed course, racing applications and are intended for the very experienced rider only. The installation of S&S parts may void or adversely affect your factory warranty. In addition such installation and use may violate certain federal, state, and local laws, rules and ordinances as well as other laws when used on motor vehicles used on public highways. Always check federal, state, and local laws before modifying your motorcycle. It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the user to determine the suitability of the product for his or her use, and the user shall assume all legal, personal injury risk and liability and all other obligations, duties, and risks associated therewith.

NOT LEGAL FOR SALE OR USE IN CALIFORNIA ON ANY POLLUTION CONTROLLED MOTOR VEHICLE.

Not legal for sale or use on any EPA pollution controlled motor vehicle.

SAFE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION RULES:

Before installing your new S&S part, it is your responsibility to read and follow the installation and maintenance procedures in these instructions and follow the basic rules below for your personal safety.

- Gasoline is extremely flammable and explosive under certain conditions and toxic when breathed. Do not smoke. Perform installation in a well ventilated area away from open flames or sparks.
- If motorcycle has been running, wait until engine and exhaust pipes have cooled down to avoid getting burned before performing any installation steps.
- Before performing any installation steps, disconnect battery to eliminate potential sparks and inadvertent engagement of starter while working on electrical components.
- Read instructions thoroughly and carefully so all procedures are completely understood before performing any installation steps. Contact S&S with any questions you may have if any steps are unclear or any abnormalities occur during installation or operation of motorcycle with an S&S part on it.
- Consult an appropriate service manual for your motorcycle for correct disassembly and reassembly procedures for any parts that need to be removed to facilitate installation.
- Use good judgment when performing installation and operating motorcycle. Good judgment begins with a clear head. Don't let alcohol, drugs or fatigue impair your judgment. Start installation when you are fresh.
- Be sure all federal, state and local laws are obeyed with the installation.
- For optimum performance and safety and to minimize potential damage to carb or other components, use all mounting hardware that is provided and follow all installation instructions.
- Motorcycle exhaust fumes are toxic and poisonous and must not be breathed. Run motorcycle in a well ventilated area where fumes can dissipate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Statements in this instruction sheet preceded by the following words are of special significance.



WARNING

Means there is the possibility of injury to yourself or others.



CAUTION

Means there is the possibility of damage to the part or motorcycle.

NOTE

Other information of particular importance has been placed in italic type.

S&S recommends you take special notice of these items.

WARRANTY:

All S&S parts are guaranteed to the original purchaser to be free of manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of purchase. Merchandise that fails to conform to these conditions will be repaired or replaced at S&S's option if the parts are returned to us by the purchaser within the 12 month warranty period or within 10 days thereafter.

In the event warranty service is required, the original purchaser must call or write S&S immediately with the problem. Some problems can be rectified by a telephone call and need no further course of action.

A part that is suspect of being defective must not be replaced by a Dealer without prior authorization from S&S. If it is deemed necessary for S&S to make an evaluation to determine whether the part was defective, a return authorization number must be obtained from S&S. The parts must be packaged properly so as to not cause further damage and be returned prepaid to S&S with a copy of the original invoice of purchase and a detailed letter outlining the nature of the problem, how the part was used and the circumstances at the time of failure. If after an evaluation has been made by S&S and the part was found to be defective, repair, replacement or refund will be granted.

ADDITIONAL WARRANTY PROVISIONS:

- (1) S&S shall have no obligation in the event an S&S part is modified by any other person or organization.
- (2) S&S shall have no obligation if an S&S part becomes defective in whole or in part as a result of improper installation, improper maintenance, improper use, abnormal operation, or any other misuse or mistreatment of the S&S part.
- (3) S&S shall not be liable for any consequential or incidental damages resulting from the failure of an S&S part, the breach of any warranties, the failure to deliver, delay in delivery, delivery in non-conforming condition, or for any other breach of contract or duty between S&S and a customer.

Piston Kit Contents

- (2) 4.250" pistons (front and rear pistons are the same)
- (2) 0.927" piston pins
- (4) Piston pin clips
- (2) Ring packs which include the top, second, oil rail, and expander rings

Piston and Cylinder Kit Contents

- (1) 4.250" Piston Kit
- (2) 4.250" Bore Cylinders
- (2) MLS (Multi Layer Steel) head gaskets, 0.030" thick
- (2) Cylinder Base Gaskets
- (4) Cylinder dowels
- (2) Exhaust gaskets
- (2) Expansion plugs
- (1) Expansion plug tool

General Information

- Thoroughly read and understand all the instructions before starting installation.
- S&S 4.250" big bore kits for 4.375" stroke engines contain pistons with 1.143" deck height and -4.3 cc dish volume for an 11:1 CR with stock cylinder head combustion chamber volume.
- S&S 4.250" big bore kits for 4.500" stroke engines contain pistons with 1.0805" deck height and -7.2 cc dish volume for an 11:1 CR with stock cylinder head combustion chamber volume.
- Pistons are the same for the front and rear cylinders and can be used with either cylinder.

Special Tool Requirements

- Harley-Davidson® service manual for the specific model you are working on
- Piston ring compressor
- Piston ring expander
- Piston ring end gap filing tool
- Feeler gauges
- Torque wrench
- 5/32" Flat End Punch
- (2) 5/16-18 x 2-1/2" bolts

Stock Harley-Davidson® Parts

Requirements

- (8) Harley-Davidson® M8 Head Bolts part # 10200303



Failure to follow instructions and perform required clearancing, installation and/or break-in procedures may result in damage to pistons and or other engine components not covered under warranty. The proper break-in procedure is in Section 8 of these instructions.

DISASSEMBLY AND INSPECTION

1. Refer to the Harley-Davidson® manual for your specific motorcycle for the correct disassembly procedure.
2. The engine should be disassembled to the short block i.e. induction system, exhaust system, cylinder heads, cylinders, and pistons should be removed.
3. Check cylinder studs to make sure they are fully seated against the case.

INSTALLATION OF EXPANSION PLUGS IN OIL COOLED HEADS

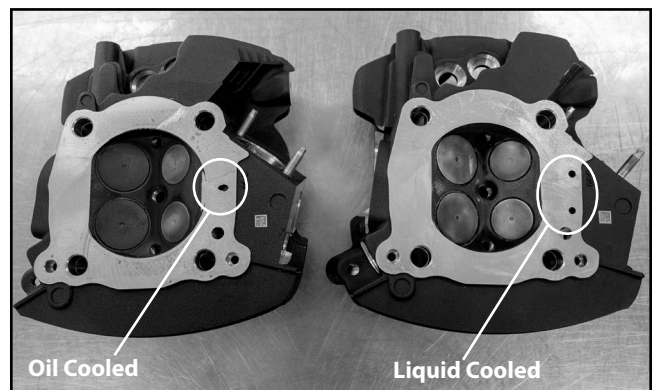
NOTES

- **Important!** Installation of the expansion plugs only applies to oil cooled heads. If you have liquid cooled heads skip to page 4 and disregard the expansion plugs and installation tool that will not be needed.
- **Important!** Installation of the expansion plugs is required for oil cooled heads. Failure to install the plugs will cause an oil leak. Both the front and rear head must be plugged.
- If you are unsure which heads you have please **see Picture 1** for identification. Oil cooled heads will have 1 hole in the head gasket area. Liquid cooled heads will have 2 holes in the head gasket area.



The pistons must be oriented so that the FWD arrow points towards the front of the engine and the dot is towards the cam side of the engine..

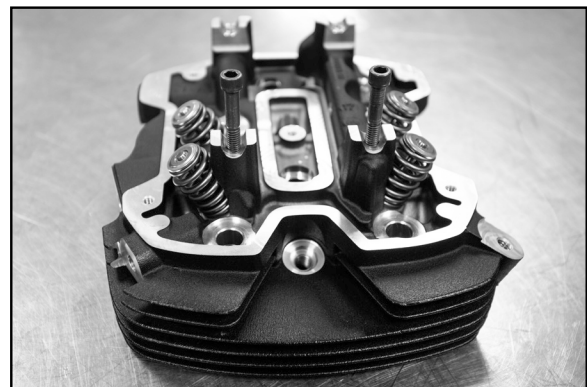
- The pistons are machined during manufacturing to provide the correct running clearance when cylinders are bored to nominal size of 4.250". In other words the clearance is built into the piston diameter. Piston to cylinder clearance is 0.003"-0.0035" prior to skirt coating. Piston skirt coating is approximately 30 micron. Any cylinder measurements must be taken with the cylinder in torque plates with bolts tightened at correct torque value to simulate conditions in an assembled engine.
- In all cases it is the engine builder's responsibility to confirm proper clearances when assembling an engine. This is especially critical with performance components such as larger valve, high performance heads and high lift camshafts.
- In addition to clearances mentioned, 0.060" valve to piston clearance must be confirmed.



Picture 1

1. Securing Cylinder Head For Plug Installation

- a. Install two 5/16-18 x 2-1/2" bolts into the drive side rocker arm bosses. **See Picture 2 .**



Picture 2

- b. Mount the cylinder head in a bench vise by clamping on the bolts. Be careful not to clamp on the cylinder head or damage will occur. **See Picture 3.**



Picture 3

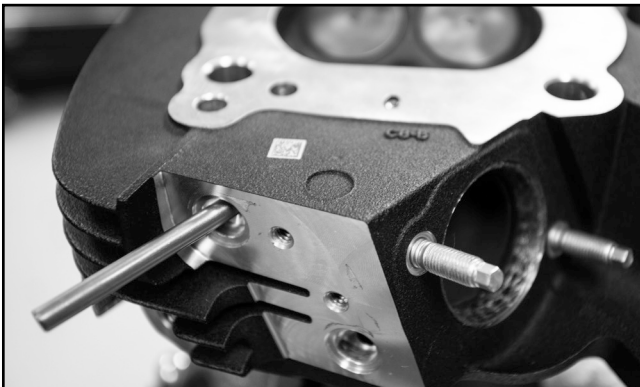
- c. Confirm the plug is completely inside the hole and resting against the installation tool. Use a hammer and a 5/32" flat end punch to tap the expansion plug ball until the ball is even with the top of the plug casing. **See Picture 6.**



Picture 6

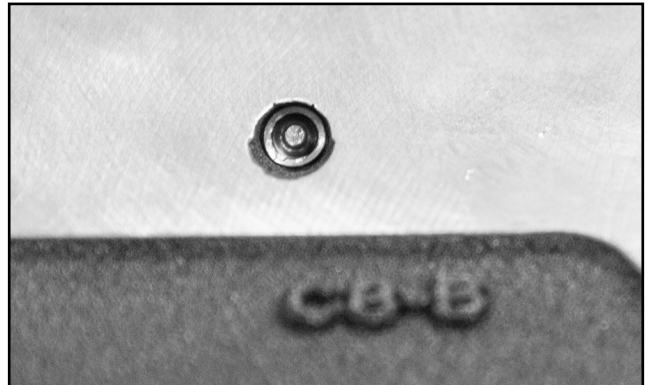
2. Installing Expansion Plugs

- a. Install provided expansion plug installation tool into the oil passage closest to the head gasket surface until it stops. **See Picture 4.**



Picture 4

- d. Confirm the top of the expansion ball is flat with the top of the plug casing. It is normal for the top of the ball and casing to deform slightly. **See Picture 7.**



Picture 7

- b. Install expansion plug with the ball side facing up. Use a flat end 5/32" punch to slide the plug in until it stops against the installation tool. **See Picture 5.**



Picture 5

- e. Use a pair of channel locks to spin and pull on the installation tool for removal. **See Picture 8.**



Picture 8

- f. Repeat securing of the cylinder head and installation of the expansion plug for the other head.

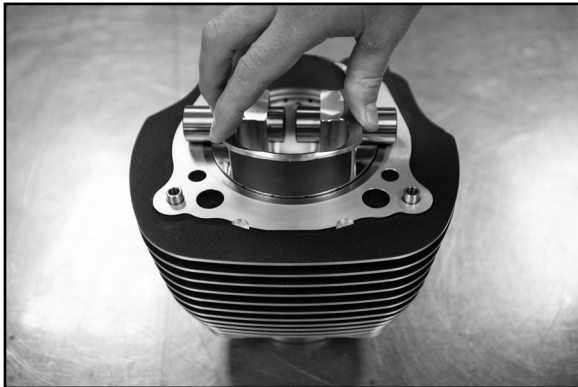
INSTALLATION AND REASSEMBLY

1. Setting Ring End Gaps

NOTES

- **Important!** The gap of the second ring should be larger than the top ring; this will help keep the top ring seated for improved performance.
- Each ring should be fitted to the particular cylinder in which they will be installed.
- Oil rails can be installed without adjusting the end gap. The minimum gap should be 0.010"
- Never alter the end gap of the oil expander ring.
- Always install the ends of the expander facing up as shown in **Figure 1 and Picture 11 (next column)**.

- Thoroughly wash cylinders with hot soapy water, then wash with brake cleaner and wipe with a clean white towel. Repeat until towel does not show evidence of debris and apply a light coat of oil immediately.
- Check the ring end gap by placing the ring into the cylinder. Use a piston or caliper to ensure that the ring is placed squarely in the bore. **See Picture 9.**



Picture 9

- Measure the ring end gap with a feeler gauge. **See Picture 10.**



Picture 10

- See Table 1** for proper end gap measurement. If adjustment to the gap must be made, use a proper ring end gap filing tool.

Ring End Gap		
Top Ring	Second Ring	Oil Ring
.020" - .024"	.024" - .028"	.010" Minimum Do not file
Note: For racing applications adjust ring end gap to the high end of the specification		

Table 1

- Always file from the ring face towards the inside diameter to avoid damaging the face coating.
- Remove material from only one end of the ring.
- Ensure that ring end gaps are square.
- Remove sharp edges and burrs.
- Recheck gap measurement and adjust as necessary.
- Repeat procedure with the other rings.

2. Piston Ring Installation

- Order of installation
 - Oil ring expander (ends must face up as shown in **Figure 1**).

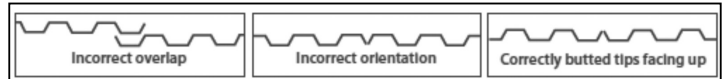
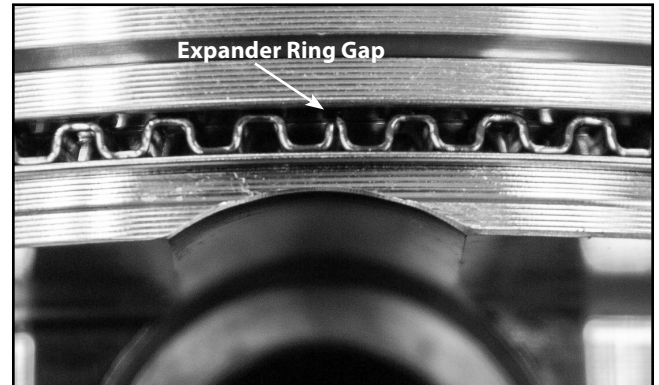


Figure 1

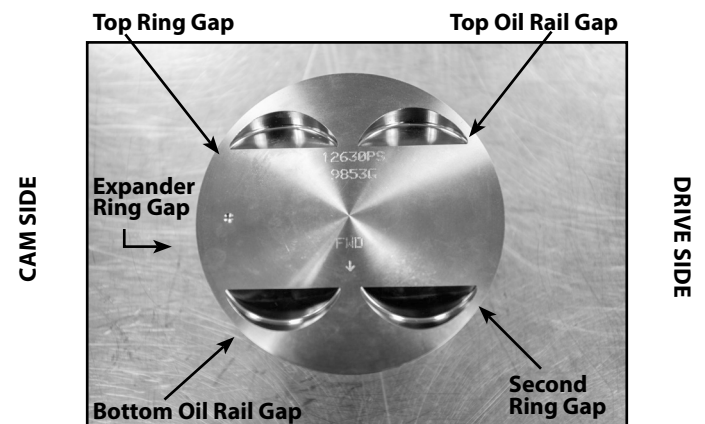
- Oil ring rails
- 2nd ring. Black finish with Napier cut. Dot faces up.
- Top ring. Shiny finish. Dot and MTOP faces up.

- Install the oil ring expander in the bottom groove of the piston. Make sure the ends of the expander ring are butted together and not overlapping. **See Figure 1.** If the tips are overlapped, excessive oil consumption will occur. Orient the expander end gap such that it can be viewed as it enters the cylinder. **See Picture 12.**



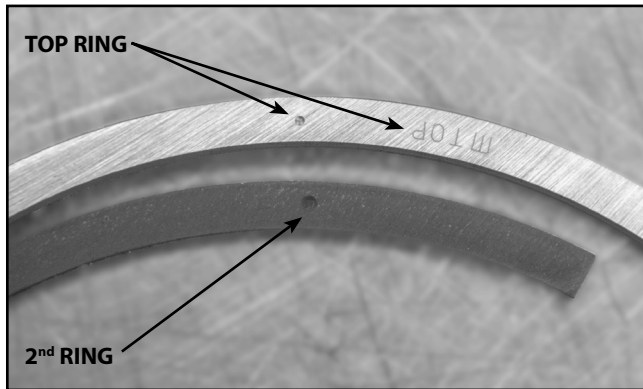
Picture 11

- Install oil rails. The oil rails are the thinnest of all the rings. Either side can be placed up. Install the rails into the groove by hand. Install one rail above the expander, and one below. Orient the gaps according to **Picture 12.**



Picture 12

- d. Install the 2nd ring with the dot facing up. **See Picture 13.** The Napier cut will face down. Use an expander to install the ring to the 2nd groove in the piston. Orient the gap according to **Picture 12.**



Picture 13

3. Piston Installation

NOTES

- *Pistons are identical and can be installed in either cylinder.*
- *Check piston pin to connecting rod clearance. Clearance should be between 0.0007" and 0.002"*



The pistons must be oriented so that the FWD arrow points towards the front of the engine and the dot is towards the cam side of the engine.

- a. Place rubber tubing over the cylinder studs to prevent damage to the pistons and rings during assembly.
- b. Place a clean sheet of plastic over the crankcase openings to prevent anything from dropping into the crankcase.
- c. Install one of the piston pin clips into each of the pistons.
- d. Lightly oil the piston pin, piston pin bore and upper connecting rod bushing with assembly lube.
- e. Hold the piston over the connecting rod with the piston facing the correct direction and the piston pin bore and upper bushing bores lined up.
- f. Install the piston pin through the piston pin bore and through the connecting rod bushing until the pin contacts the clip.
- g. Install the other piston clip. Ensure that both clips are fully seated.
- h. Repeat procedure for the other piston.

4. Cylinder Installation

- a. Bring the front cylinder to TDC.
- b. Apply a light coating of oil to the piston and rings.
- c. Install base gasket with so you can read the UP and the cut out edge faces the lifter cover.
- d. Verify that the ring gaps are orientated correctly, refer to **Picture 12.**
- e. Remove the rubber tubing from the cylinder studs.

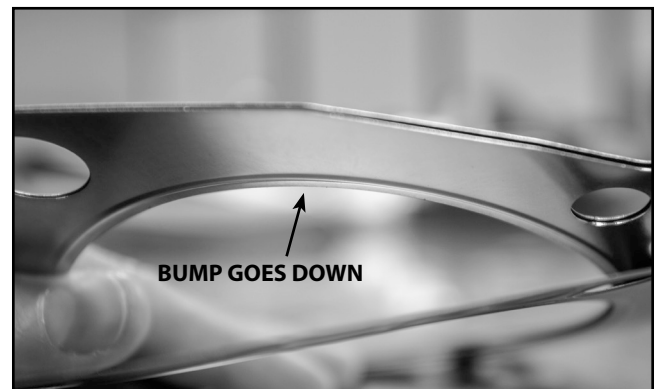
- f. Compress ring pack by using a suitable ring compressor. If possible, position the ring compressor so that you can see the oil expander gap during installation. **See Picture 11.**
- g. Install cylinder on piston, making sure not to overlap oil ring expander.
- h. Remove ring compressor.
- i. Remove plastic sheeting covering crankcase.
- j. Slide the cylinder down until it seats against the crankcase.
- k. Rotate the engine until the rear cylinder is at TDC.
- l. Repeat procedure for the rear cylinder.

5. Cylinder Head Installation



New Harley- Davidson® head bolts part # 10200303 must be used. The following torque sequence must be followed. Failure to do so will result in engine failure not covered under warranty.

- a. Check surfaces for flatness and imperfections, an excessively rough finish may cause gasket failure.
- b. Install cylinder dowels.
- c. Clean all threads and lubricate with clean oil. Lubricate the underside flange of the head bolts with clean oil .
- d. Locate the embossed fire ring on center layer of the multilayer head gasket. Install the head gasket with this bump facing the cylinder. **See Picture 14.**



Picture 14

- e. Once the gasket is in place, make sure that it fits the bore. The gasket should not hang into the bore or combustion chamber area.
- f. If using cylinder heads other than stock, check the brass rivets of the MLS gaskets to ensure the rivets do not interfere with the sealing surface in any way.

CAUTION

New Harley- Davidson® head bolts part # 10200303 must be used. The following torque sequence must be followed. Failure to do so will result in engine failure not covered under warranty.

- g. Tighten the head bolts according to the following procedure, start with the front head then the rear head.
 - i. Tighten each bolt finger tight using the sequence in **Figure 2**.
 - ii. Tighten each bolt to 10 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - iii. Tighten each bolt to 20 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - iv. Tighten each bolt to 30 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - v. Fully loosen each bolt 1/4 turn at a time in the reverse sequence.
 - vi. Tighten each bolt finger tight using the sequence in **Figure 2**.
 - vii. Tighten each bolt to 10 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - viii. Tighten each bolt to 20 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - ix. Tighten each bolt to 25 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - x. Tighten each bolt to 30 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - xi. Tighten each bolt to 35 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - xii. Final tighten each bolt to 45 ft-lbs using the same sequence.
 - xiii. Wait 15 minutes then recheck each bolt at 45 ft-lbs using the same sequence.

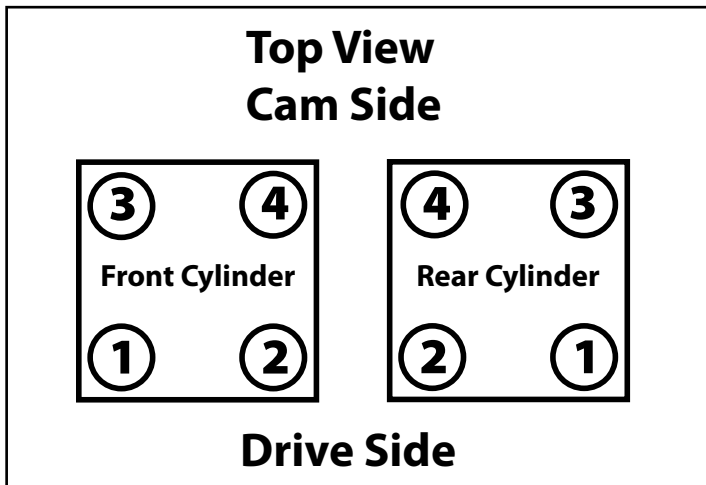


Figure 2

6. Final Assembly

Assemble the remaining items according to the Harley-Davidson® service manual specific for your motorcycle.

7. Tuning

S&S big bore kits increase the displacement and compression ratio of your engine. The fuel and ignition systems must be calibrated for these changes before the engine is driven and break-in is attempted. Fuel injected engines must be tuned using an aftermarket tuner such as the DynoJet® Power Vision® tuner.

8. Break-in Procedure

NOTES:

- S&S engines and parts are designed for high performance and are not as tolerant of inadequate break-in. Correct break-in will assure longer engine life and will prevent unnecessary engine damage. Engine

damage caused by improper break-in is not covered under the S&S Warranty.

- Proper engine tuning will be required in order for your engine to run correctly and to prevent damage. It is recommended to start by adding 10% fuel across the map if you do not have a tune file for the set-up you are running.
 - a. Initial start up. Run the engine approximately one minute at 1250-1750rpm. DO NOT crack the throttle or subject to any loads during this period as head gaskets are susceptible to failure at this time. During this time, check to see that oil pressure is normal, oil is returning to the oil tank and no leaks exist.
 - b. Shut off engine and inspect for leaks. Allow engine to cool to the touch.
 - c. Start up engine again and allow the engine to warm up for 3 to 4 minutes. Again, do not crack the throttle or subject the engine to any type of load. Shut down the engine and allow to cool. Repeat this procedure at least 3 more times.
 - d. After the engine has cooled to room temperature, you are ready to start the 500 mile engine break-in process.
 - e. The first 50 miles are the most critical for new rings and piston break-in. Engine damage is most likely to occur during this period. Keep heat down by not exceeding 2500rpm. Avoid lugging the engine, riding in hot weather or in traffic. Vary the engine speed. We recommend changing the oil after the first 50 miles.
 - f. The next 500 miles should be spent running no faster than 3500rpm or 60mph. Avoid running continuous steady speeds, and do not lug the engine, Vary the rpm. We recommend changing the oil again at 500 miles.
 - g. For the balance of the first 1000 miles the engine can be run in a normal but conservative manner. You can be more liberal with the rpm range and the motorcycle can be operated at normal highway speeds. Avoid overheating or putting any hard strain on the engine; no drag racing, dyno runs, excessive speed, trailer towing or side car operation.
 - h. After 1000 miles, change the engine oil. Now the motorcycle can be operated normally.

OIL RECOMMENDATIONS

S&S® Cycle recommends the use of S&S 20W-50 synthetic based V-Twin Motor Oil.

Break-in can be performed with either synthetic or petroleum based oil.

Regardless of what type of oil you select, be sure to only use oil specifically designated for use in an air cooled motorcycle engine. If you prefer not to use a multi-viscosity oil, utilize the viscosity suggested for the temperature you will be operating your motorcycle in.