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Check your F650GS or Dakar Forks

WOZZUPPP WayneC1?

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Page 8 of 9 << First < 4 5 6 7 **8** 9 >

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04-13-2009, 03:21 AM

106

Gravel Seeker

Thomas



Joined: Apr 2002
Location: Dreary old Norway,
dreaming of adventures past
Odometer: 1,180

I rode my 2001 dakar (built 11/2000) into a ditch and hit a fat tree stump. Front wheel stopped suddenly and bike rotated on axle and flipped into the woods with me on it.

The bike and I first landed on my back on top of a much thinner tree stump that poked a hole through my jacket, water bladder (inside back pocket in jacket), jacket liner and made a nice dent in my back protector. I fell off and the bike continued rotating and landed on the rear, which dentet both exhaust ends (not kidding) before it rotated further to its wheels and came to a rest some 5-6 meters further away on its right side. Bike was pretty much ok.

I can thank my back protector (ATGATT people) that I'm walking today.

The front wheel was bent, but the forks were ok. Sounds like it depends on angle, not force if they brake or not ?

'01 F650 Dakar - modified as best I can

[Gravel Seekers.com](#)

Why can't I too have an avatar that gives the salute 🙌

[Blame MaddBrit](#)

[quote](#)

04-13-2009, 04:02 AM

107

bluepoof

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004
Location: San Carlos, CA
Odometer: 338

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Gravel Seeker**
I Sounds like it depends on angle, not force if they brake or not ?

Some peoples' forks have broken just riding down the road. It's a design flaw on the forks.

'09 BMW F650GS * '01 BMW F650GS * '02 Yamaha XT225 * '08 Honda CRF80F
[www.bluepoof.com](#)

[Blame MaddBrit](#)

[quote](#)

04-13-2009, 05:52 AM

108

TwilightZone

Gnarly Adventurer

Joined: Dec 2008
Location: Behind the Redwood
Curtain
Odometer: 146


>"It's a design flaw on the forks."

IMHO: Probably a manufacturing problem coupled with a design that did not have much 'reserve' strength. A slight imperfection in some of the castings results in catastrophic failure. A 'pure' design problem would see hundreds of forks failing.


I have one of the 'light' castings, 10,000 mi on the bike no problems... but still in the back of my mind it bothers me that some others have failed.

I've considered taking the lowers to a good MIG/TIG welder and having them beefed up. A few nice fillet passes and the cast-in bolsters aren't going anywhere... either that or pony up the \$ to replace the lowers.

BMW should be fixing these... should get NTSB [USA] involved.

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 04-13-2009, 08:10 AM

109

bluepoof

insert pithy saying here



Joined: Dec 2004
Location: San Carlos, CA
Odometer: 338

Quote:

Originally Posted by **TwilightZone**


>
IMHO: Probably a manufacturing problem coupled with a design that did not have much 'reserve' strength. A slight imperfection in some of the castings results in catastrophic failure. A 'pure' design problem would see hundreds of forks failing.

Ah, good point. You're right. 🙄

'09 BMW F650GS * '01 BMW F650GS * '02 Yamaha XT225 * '08
Honda CRF80F
www.bluepoof.com

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 04-13-2009, 08:31 AM

110

JDLuke

Familiar with sarcasm



Joined: May 2007
Location: New Jersey
Odometer: 1,947

I suspect that the design itself would be OK, but that the realities of the casting process interfered. I suspect that for whatever reason the metal occasionally got too cold or something in that area, leading to porosity in a small percentage.

When they changed the design, I suspect that what really happened is that they basically made it easier for lots of hot metal to flow into the area.

So to my mind it was moer of a process engineering issue than a design issue.

OMG radioactive anthrax... with eggs!

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 04-13-2009,
11:13 AM

cdnskiwi

Adventurer



Joined: Oct 2008
Location: Southern Ontario
Odometer: 20

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cdnabn49**
here's mine... no design flaw... right... 🤔

damage close up... what you can't see is the lower triple tree twisted and bent s wobbles on a flat surface... cockpit/fairing totaled... the rear sub-frame also ben twisted... handle bars bent and twisted... over \$2,500 in parts damaged and rep thanks to eBay and some lucky finds otherwise it would have been totally writte. \$4G + of estimated damage and shop fee's... catastrophic mistake on casting.

Fork close up




... deleted ...

Well your bike is looking good now cdnabn49 and I hope you sustained less damage fork/bike 🤔!

Well after pondering this whole issue and reading through the threads during the w installed new sliders last week on my '02. Of course there's always risks every time but there's some peace of mind now.

 **Blame**
MaddBrit

 04-13-2009, 12:13 PM

#112

TwilightZone
Gnarly Adventurer

>"I installed new sliders last week on my '02."


Where did you pick your new sliders up?

Joined: Dec 2008
Location: Behind the Redwood
Curtain
Odometer: 146

Isn't the RH side identified as the one that primarily fails first?

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 04-13-2009, 01:58 PM

113

cdnskiwi

Adventurer



Joined: Oct 2008
Location: Southern Ontario
Odometer: 20

Quote:

Originally Posted by **TwilightZone**
>"I installed new sliders last week on my '02."

*Where did you pick your new sliders up?
Isn't the RH side identified as the one that primarily fails
first?*

Hammersley BMW, Lynchburg VA via their website
<http://webparts.com/> - \$275 a piece. It seems that most of the
failures reported have come from the right side first so replacing
just the right may work out but I seem to like even numbers 😊

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 04-13-2009, 04:10 PM

114

WayneC1

Adventurer

Joined: Oct 2008
Location: Australia
Odometer: 58

Re buying replacement sliders, I received an email from a UK
couple who are replacing the sliders on their 2 F650GS machines,
they printed out the pics and comments from this thread and
others around the web & showed the dealer. He was unaware of
the problem & became concerned & indicated he would take it up
with BMW. He then gave them a healthy discount on the price of
the sliders.


The couple have also written a letter of complaint to BMW UK &
BMW AG & have requested re imbursement for their costs. Perhaps
all those who replace their sliders should do the same.

It will at least get their attention.



 edit

 quote

 04-13-2009, 06:39 PM

115

Gravel Seeker

Thomas



Joined: Apr 2002
Location: Dreary old Norway,
dreaming of adventures past
Odometer: 1,180

Quote:

Originally Posted by **TwilightZone**
*I have one of the 'light' castings, 10,000 mi on the bike no
problems... but still in the back of my mind it bothers me
that some others have failed.*

Mine has done 50.000kms now and it's been ridden fairly hard both
on and offroad, often with full luggage. I've had more than the one
knock on them mention above and never even crossed my mind
that they could fail.

Damn whoever bumped this thread - now I'll never stop thinking
about it

'01 F650 Dakar - modified as best I can

[Gravel Seekers.com](http://GravelSeekers.com)

Why can't I too have an avatar that gives the salute 🙌

Blame MaddBrit

quote

04-14-2009, 03:46 AM

116

stalia85

n00b

Joined: Apr 2009
Odometer: 2

about forks and yokes

Hello everybody there i am a new guy here i would like to ask if anyone knows if ktm yokes much to the Dakar because it is easy to find good wp forks but after market yokes are very expensive

Thanks a lot 🙌

Blame MaddBrit

quote

04-14-2009, 03:48 AM

117

JDLuke

Familiar with sarcasm



Joined: May 2007
Location: New Jersey
Odometer: 1,947

Quote:

Originally Posted by **stalia85**
Hello everybody there i am a new guy here i would like to ask if anyone knows if ktm yokes much to the Dakar because it is easy to find good wp forks but after market yokes are very expensive

Thanks a lot 🙌

Don't know about KTM parts, but Yamaha YZ dirt bike tripletrees and forks are basically a bolt-on replacement. The only drawback seems to be rather spindly brake hardware meant for a lighter machine.

There are a couple of threads here in Thumpers talking about it. A small group of us recently acquired custom-made axles and caliper brackets for adapting the original BMW wheel to the Yamaha forks.

OMG radioactive anthrax... with eggs!

Blame MaddBrit

quote

05-28-2009,
07:57 PM

talltony

Gnarly
Adventurer

Joined: Apr 2005
Location: Dorset, UK
Odometer: 129

NHTSA Investigation started....

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has started an investigation in



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Report Date : May 27, 2009 at 03:03 PM
NHTSA Action Number : PE09026

| | |
|---|---|
| NHTSA Action Number : PE09026 | NHTSA Recall Campaign Num |
| Make / Models : BMW / F650 GS BMW / F650GS BMW / F650GS DAKAR | Model/Build Years: 2003 2001-2002 2001-2002 |
| Manufacturer : BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC | |
| Component : SUSPENSION:FRONT | |
| Date Investigation Opened : May 18, 2009 | |
| Date Investigation Closed : Open | |
| Summary: BETWEEN AUGUST 15 AND DECEMBER 26, 2008, ODI RECEIVED FIVE VEHIC QUESTIONNAIRES ALLEGING PARTIAL OR FULL FRONT WHEEL SEPARATION WI RETAINING LUG FAILED. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, AND BMW'S RE OPENING THIS PE. | |

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Documents may be submitted to:

Office of Defect Investigations

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave SE

Washington DC 20590

USA


Attn: Bob Young, Principal Investigator, PE09-026

Please submit only factual information which is relevant to this problem. (spamming about BMW, other branches of government, or your own "expert opinion" on this issue much.)
Accidents need not occur within the United States to be reported.

Tony

02 F650 Dakar
95 XR250

 Blame
MaddBrit

 05-28-2009, 08:33 PM

119

mjg

Study Adventurer

Joined: Aug 2006
Location: Bentonville
Odometer: 573

Bummer for Beemer...

If anyone there is reading this: when in doubt, communicate with the government agency sooner rather than later and more rather than less: you'll mitigate consumer bad will on top of the problems a potentially 'defective' product causes. Take it from someone who worked for a company which once got crossways with the CPSC.

Consumers and government folks kind of understand how an honest mistake can occur but they despise anything less than forthrightness once it has surfaced.


And it'll be interesting to see if these failures are eventually officially designated a 'defect'. My money says yes because of the redesign.

they put jesus on a cross, they put a hole in JFK, they put hitler in the drivers seat and looked the other way, now you got poison in your water and the whole worlds in a trance, but just because were hypnotized it dont mean we cant dance!

Last edited by mjg : Today at 01:59 AM.

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 05-29-2009, 03:54 PM

120

CAVOK

Adventurer

Joined: Feb 2009
Odometer: 13

My '03 650GS has a new style fork, good for me !

 Blame MaddBrit

 quote

 new reply

Page 8 of 9 << First < 4 5 6 7 8 9 > >

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Thumpers

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-- cRASH

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