

# The Chain Gang

BMW F650 Discussions

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## Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts

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### **Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428039)**

by **TechTeacher** on November 3rd, 2008, 6:18 am

Anyone following this thread regarding fork failure on the early f650gs bikes? I happen to have the old style, just wondering what the general consensus is. I am sure someone has information they can share.

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=393785>  
(<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=393785>)

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428046)**

by **jetdocX** on November 3rd, 2008, 8:23 am

This subject has been discussed ad-nauseum here:  
<http://f650.com/phpbb3/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=221882>  
(<http://f650.com/phpbb3/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=221882>)

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428057)**

by **TechTeacher** on November 3rd, 2008, 10:54 am

So after wading through all those pages and checking out the different photos, is anyone upgrading their parts to the new design? Any idea what the new sliders cost?

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428110)**

by **maddog** on November 3rd, 2008, 6:44 pm

I changed my LHS slider for different reasons (mine wasn't straight and caused me problems with seals). They run about 250 bucks a side IIRC.

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428186)**

by **TechTeacher** on November 4th, 2008, 8:29 am

Maddog - thanks. Sent you a PM. Any recommended dealer?

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428193)**

by **indigoid** on November 4th, 2008, 10:12 am

*TechTeacher wrote:* Maddog - thanks. Sent you a PM. Any recommended dealer?

it'd be plenty easier to recommend a dealer if you set your location field in your profile :P

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428209)**

by **euromedic** on November 4th, 2008, 12:37 pm

Ive got some pitting on my bike forks, but upon close inspection I am not worried. I did not note any hint of cracks. Unless I upend the bike like Red Baroness did on her offroad section ride prior to the failure, I will happily keep the current forks.

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428213)**

by **haakon** on November 4th, 2008, 1:03 pm

I want to change mine.. so I bought a ticket in the local lottery!!!  
Honestly... I have done my part of jumps and wheelies... not all with a soft "landing"

I will be trying to find a (cheap) replacement... H\*nda or OEM or....

I am not worried, riding every day, but in the back of my head I think of the pics I have seen.

All my bikes look like real "rats"- but they are (hopefully) sound and safe to use. A friends Buell broke the rear suspension.. he is still alive and well.

I had a front brake casting "explode"... (when I was in a max brake situation)  
I have had front forks damping "go"... real scary!!! (internal stress and failure)  
and so on... locked rear wheel on the Guzzi

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I say I am not worried.. and I am not- things happens, all the time.

What I would hate was to be seriously hurt by something I KNEW.. and did not act on.....

enough said I guess?

I **will** replace mine... some time later

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428272)**

by **bigb** on November 5th, 2008, 5:27 am

Having worked in a foundry as an engineer, noting the manufacturers worldwide reputation, and inspecting the non-skilled off-road racing-duty of the participant in question; I'd recommend it is either a normal alloy wear-duty limits or a freak occurrence. Although I'd been freaked out and likely mad too, the steps of recognition of what actually happened with the appropriate probabilities are now being processed in the participant's mind: although the recognition cycle may not be complete for an additional 20 or 30 years.

Worry more about car drivers talking on cell phones!!

Last edited by [bigb \(./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=27258\)](#) on November 5th, 2008, 5:30 am, edited 2 times in total.

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428273)**

by **bigb** on November 5th, 2008, 5:28 am

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428274)**

by **bluepoof** on November 5th, 2008, 5:31 am

*bigb wrote:* Having worked in a foundry as an engineer, noting the manufacturers worldwide reputation, and inspecting the non-skilled off-road racing-duty of the participant in question; I'd recommend it is either a normal alloy wear-duty limits or a freak occurrence.

I'd be more likely to agree had I not heard of a half-dozen of the exact same fork failures.

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### **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428289)**

by **Dan Neelands** on November 5th, 2008, 8:12 am

Het Bluepoof, Where did you hear of these other six failures?

Thanks,  
Dan

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## **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428296)**

by **bluepoof** on November 5th, 2008, 9:56 am

*Dan Neelands wrote:* Het Bluepoof, Where did you hear of these other six failures?  
Thanks,  
Dan

There's another thread on ADV, [here](#)

(<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650>) . I'm in a classroom break from a training class at work right now, so I don't have time to wade through the 14 pages for all the "this happened to me, too!" posts, but there's more than a couple.

Last I heard, there were 3 NHTSA reports.

Last edited by [bluepoof](#) ([./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=23779](#)) on November 5th, 2008, 9:57 am, edited 1 time in total.

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## **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428297)**

by **bluepoof** on November 5th, 2008, 9:57 am

*TechTeacher wrote:* So after wading through all those pages and checking out the different photos, is anyone upgrading their parts to the new design? Any idea what the new sliders cost?

I did. The new fork lowers were about \$700 total.

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## **Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p428327)**

by **bigb** on November 5th, 2008, 11:54 pm

*bluepoof wrote:*

*Dan Neelands wrote:* Het Bluepoof, Where did you hear of these other six failures?  
Thanks,  
Dan

There's another thread on ADV, [here](http://www.advriders.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650) (<http://www.advriders.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650>) . I'm in a classroom break from a training class at work right now, so I don't have time to wade through the 14 pages for all the "this happened to me, too!" posts, but there's more than a couple.

Last I heard, there were 3 NHTSA reports.

I'd be more likely to agree had I not heard of a half-dozen of the exact same fork failures FROM THE SAME THREADS BY THE SAME AUTHOR!!

Likely you read references from low count post new authors. After wasting a lot of time looking, I've yet found any conclusive supporting data to back any claims up except footage of the same incident. AND now, the author is posting MORE pictures of her wreck. How enthralling. That proves nothing. Tell it to the judge.

Futile spinning in fact illustrates how baseless these claims are: at best web ghost manifestations.

And IF someone did crack their front end up, ever wonder why there are only bent front mag wheels available? Stuff happens, and it generally happens to the front end. You only have 2 wheels holding you up! No amount of pictures of little chubby girls sprawled out on the road and mutilated alloy parts prove anything. The live tape of her blindly leading the pack (of grinning experienced riders) on unknown dirt roads in third world countries kinda says the opposite thing - NO warranty!

Maybe the Chain Gang can catalog all of these posts to save people time for the next 30 years when these futile posts keep arising. NHTSA reports? Post the links. Sue BMW? Go ahead. Waste our time? Make my day.

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