

The Chain Gang

BMW F650 Discussions

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Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429202)

by **johno** on November 13th, 2008, 9:40 pm

I am presuming that this doesnt happen all of a sudden.(front end falling apart)

So, if you keep an eye on the front end at the start, or end of a ride, you would see cracking appearing??

Just like any other part of your bike, regularly have a look at things, and you may catch it before it becomes a real problem.

Swapping out parts maybe a cost not needed.

Or start checking Ebay for your Y*m*ha fork upgrade parts

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429207)

by **bigb** on November 13th, 2008, 10:12 pm

bluepoof wrote:

*bigb wrote:*From the 'ONE KNOWN' incident involved and the facts surrounding it

Do you even read the other posts in this thread? Nevermind; I know the answer.

This seems like a Dilbert cartoon I saw last week about spreading factless rumors like they were facts as part of a new-product strategy. It didn't change the outcome of results (the truth) in a cartoon even. Even if they were true, it does not mean anything really without court evidence in repeated similar events.

I've seen links to your previous posts, redundant posts that state this as a fact without a verified reference, and other 3rd party accounts which "state this" which mean absolutely nothing on the web. SHOW ME!! Not links to one of the many 25 page threads of the wrecked claimant or one of her 12 post-poster-good friends, but a verifiable link to the information or copies of information.

"Do you even read the other posts in this thread? Nevermind; I know the answer. "

Bless her little heart. Not only does the claimant NOT know her redundant photos and films of damaged parts and persons proves absolutely nothing except possibly rider neglect, but she does not even realize that she has videoed "CONCLUSIVE" proof for the defense in her attempts to baffle the BMW masses (a hard task from empirical observations). She can't even realize what one wrecked event may have to do with the other event with her self-claimed brilliance and followings of good-friends net-wide, who have nothing better to do than 'constantly' repost redundant posts. Bless her little heart.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429263)

by **rob feature** on November 14th, 2008, 7:42 am

*johnno wrote:*I am presuming that this doesnt happen all of a sudden.(front end falling apart)

So, if you keep an eye on the front end at the start, or end of a ride, you would see cracking appearing??

Just like any other part of your bike, regularly have a look at things, and you may catch it before it becomes a real problem.

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As far as I understand it, there's no warning.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429265)

by **rob feature** on November 14th, 2008, 7:49 am

bigb wrote:

bluepoof wrote:

*bigb wrote:*From the 'ONE KNOWN' incident involved and the facts surrounding it

Do you even read the other posts in this thread? Nevermind; I know the answer.

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Really...your posts at least on this topic seem to have one purpose...to ruffle feathers. Please give it a rest if you don't have anything constructive to say. It's getting old.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429288)

by **TechTeacher** on November 14th, 2008, 11:21 am

"one of her 12 post-poster-good friends".....

For the record, I can say I really don't know anyone on this site. The only person I know that has an f650gs works with me and he doesn't even visit this site (he does have the old forks though). I just wanted to know what the general consensus was and if I should be thinking about upgrading my forks over the winter. I try to make prudent decisions and be as proactive as possible. My wife rides 2up with me alot and the thought of me putting her in danger because I was too lame to follow up on a POSSIBLE issue doesn't sit well.

Thanks for those of you that shared helpful information. I have found this site to be well worth my membership fee, a fantastic resource.

In the meantime, I will try to add in a bunch more posts where I can, so I can boost my credibility

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p429424)

by **bigb** on November 15th, 2008, 3:38 am

"In the meantime, I will try to add in a bunch more posts where I can, so I can boost my credibility "

Don't worry, you are significantly over the median: 14/12 = 117%.

"Please give it a rest if you don't have anything constructive to say."

No problem. You may know Armando, RIP, from Bloodworth's Cycle. He was a very special man, if you had to pleasure to know him.

I can understand the evolved parts, much of what has to do with combining part models to eliminate closely redundant parts duplication.

And yes, if it is more robust, then it may be a good substitution. BUT,

1. Over mass can tend to fracture alloy when heat and vibration are combined in cycles that resonant like soldiers marching over a bridge in cadence.
2. The probability of receiving a defective Chinese metallurgy part is somewhat 10,000% more likely today than the past: all metallurgical parts from China are suspect.

Combining #1 and #2, it would seem to be wiser, safer, and thriftier to monitor the front forks as alert cyclists often practice. On the other hand, you may reinforce the validity of the suit if everyone bought Chinese metallurgical parts and experienced routine failures. So depending on what was more important, safety or litigation through tangential coincidence, different actions may appear compelling.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p431246)

by **bluepoof** on November 30th, 2008, 2:24 pm

Since I'm preemptively swapping my 2001 lowers for 2003+ ones, I thought these photos might be interesting to people on the boards.

You can really see the extra material that BMW has added in the latter forks.

Both sets are still off the bike (catching the stomach flu has extended the length of time this work is taking ;)) so, if anyone has any specific photos you'd like me to take, let me know. I probably won't get the forks reinstalled onto the bike until early next week.

The dirty ones are, obviously, my original '01 lowers.

Last edited by [bluepoof \(./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=23779\)](#) on December 1st, 2008, 2:13 pm, edited 2 times in total.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p431325)

by **rbertalotto** on December 1st, 2008, 12:59 pm

Blueproof.....Thanks for the pictures!

And talk about an admission of guilt!

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p431355)

by **Winter** on December 1st, 2008, 6:40 pm

Has someone tried contacting Showa? (i.e. Bypass BMW completely?). Maybe ask the following two questions:

1. Were they aware of the potential failure as is being documented in various forums with the earlier model forks? (possibly leading to serious injury or death of a rider)
2. What was the basis for the change between the two models of forks (SA-1 and SESA-2)?
3. What is the failure rate of the afore mentioned forks?

They may not answer, but sometimes asking can provide more information.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p431356)

by **WayneC** on December 1st, 2008, 7:11 pm

I emailed Showa very early on, with links to forum threads & they did not respond to my email

The only email address available online is showa_pr@showa1.co.jp
(mailto:showa_pr@showa1.co.jp)

Perhaps if more people were to email them with questions they may respond

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p433366)

by **WayneC** on December 21st, 2008, 2:25 pm

UK Superbike Magazine has published an article on the failures under the title 'forking hell"

Can be viewed online at zinio.com - see January page 9

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p433593)

by **ThumpAspen** on December 24th, 2008, 6:43 am

*WayneC wrote:*UK Superbike Magazine has published an article on the failures under the title 'forking hell"

Can be viewed online at zinio.com - see January page 9

Wayne, I looked and couldn't find it. This is Jan. '09, page 9? Didn't see it...

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p433600)

by **balondon** on December 24th, 2008, 7:35 am

try feb 09, page 9.

maybe this link works:

[http://www.zinio.com/express3?issue=336 ... pg=seo&p=9](http://www.zinio.com/express3?issue=336...pg=seo&p=9)
(<http://www.zinio.com/express3?issue=336378801&o=int&prev=si&pg=seo&p=9>)

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p433603)

by **ThumpAspen** on December 24th, 2008, 7:54 am

Thanks, that link worked a treat!

And WayneC, may we assume you are the gentleman cited toward the end of the article? Clearly redbaroness is the "Seattle rider."

Glad to see it's at least out in print now.

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Re: Fork Failure F650gs - Thoughts (#p433615)

by **WayneC** on December 24th, 2008, 11:43 am

Yes, I am the person referred to in the article, the gentleman tag may be debatable

The BMW response is not credible. The Jim Tussey 2004 failure covered in other posts here and elsewhere was on a machine which was purchased new & had only 1400 tarmac miles on the clock at the time of the failure.

Jim wrote to BMW NA & AG at the highest levels to make them aware of the problem. His letters were backed by a metallurgy report.

Last edited by [WayneC \(./memberlist.php?mode=viewprofile&u=30741\)](#) on December 24th, 2008, 11:59 am, edited 4 times in total.

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