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650 & 450 singles Single cylinder chain drive talk

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13-08-08, 07:24 #1

stumpy
Subscriber
Subscribed

Join Date: Jul 2002
Location: Scotland
Posts: 1,808

650 fork failure

This makes interesting reading

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?t=371650>

Apoligies if it's been covered before but its news to me

Stumpy

[quote](#)

13-08-08, 07:56 #2

rc mad
Physcopic gecko
Subscribed

Join Date: May 2006
Location: scunthorpe, north lincs
Posts: 1,144

I'm keeping any eye on it at the moment. Bloody lucky to survive that in my opinion.

Over on f650.com they seem to think that some of the earlier bikes (pre 02) had this problem. I've not heard of any failures in the uk so perhaps its a usa batch only thing

[quote](#)

13-08-08, 08:53 #3

AxeGrinder
Recovering 2 wheel hooligan
Subscribed

Join Date: May 2008

Quote:

Originally Posted by **rc mad**

I'm keeping any eye on it at the moment. Bloody lucky to survive that in my opinion.

Location: Wirral
Posts: 197

Over on f650.com they seem to think that some of the earlier bikes (pre 02) had this problem. I've not heard of any failures in the uk so perhaps its a usa batch only thing 🙄

Holy cow! That's a bit scary...

I'm surprised she could type, looking at the state of her hand!

Will be checking for cracking regularly I think!

Cheers for the info Stumpy 🙏

Here's some more info:

<http://faq.f650.com/FAQS/ForksMaintF...Fork%20Failure>

<http://forums.somethingawful.com/sho...readid=2926197>

Further investigation indicates that Red Baroness highsided the bike severely enough land 20 feet away from it, on a previous ride...could this have contributed to catastrophic failure of fork?

<http://red-baroness.net/Motorcycling...ongVersion.wmv>



06-09-08, 07:06

#4

kwh
Member



Join Date: Jan 2004
Location: Carmarthen, Wales
Posts: 68

And another one...

Same thread, different rider a couple of days ago. Early Dakar this time, same failure. Again, lucky to survive...

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showthread.php?p=7793031>



07-09-08, 04:09

#5

Flipfly

Master Mooser (10th Dan)

Subscribed
Tosser



Join Date: May 2006
Location: Stoke on Trent
Posts: 4,855

Maybe I'll get those KTM forks fitted sooner rather than later 🍏🍏🍏

4 failures (albeit catastrophic) in the 1000's of GS's built is an acceptable failure rate. Any casting can fail over time. I doubt there is much of a case against BM with this one, shit happens, you just have to hope it doesn't happen to you 🙏



10-10-08, 23:57

#6

kwh

Member



Join Date: Jan 2004
Location: Carmarthen, Wales
Posts: 68

We are actually up to about ten cases in that thread, now....

...including at least four that caused serious injuries. None of the failures that details are so far available for have happened in traffic, either - I'm guessing that bike and rider being run over by an articulated lorry would pretty much militate against the cause ever being identified.

The latest case is here:

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showp...&postcount=146> and here: <http://www.advrider.com/forums/showp...&postcount=150> - the guy picked up a brand new Dakar at a BMW dealer in Australia and 24 hours later the fork casting broke and chucked him off. He's lucky to be alive and not a quadriplegic or a vegetable. BMW told him, remember that this is in August 2003, that they had never heard of such a thing happening before, that there was nothing wrong with the metal in the part and that he must have hit something. Which he knew he hadn't. So he ended up paying for the repairs himself! He's still using the same original front wheel and the same original left hand fork casting on the bike 8 years later. He is so pissed off that he was lied to and stitched up for the cost of repairs to his brand new bike that he is putting his back into getting this exposed, before more people are killed or maimed. Oh, and the replacement right-hand fork casting he had fitted in September 2003 is one of the redesigned, beefed up items.

Pursuant to that, we now have the text of the original crash report posted on Chain Gang that led to the FAQ entry. It said...

Quote:

Re: Front forks total failure on '00 F650GS.

Sorry for not responding. Been out of town. Beem is probably the one that purchased my spares in '02.

I bought the bike new in Aug 2000. Put about 5,000 miles on it mainly on blacktop and probably 400 on gravel/dirt roads. The failure occurred in Jan 01 on a dirt road in Argentina. Normal dirt road. No pot holes or obstructions - just 3 tracks.

The casting on the forks where it holds the wheel is the part that snapped - first on one side and then the other.

I have a lawsuit pending with BMW (the wheels of justice move slowly) and they have admitted to knowing about 3 failures other than mine that happened before they redesigned the part, adding material. I'm wondering if there are other failures that BMW doesn't know about or isn't talking about.

Gertarg

by gertarg
on May 24th, 2005, 6:13 am
Forum: General Discussion
Topic:
Replies:
Views:

* Jump to post

Re: Front fork failures

I forgot to mention that as both sides of the forks snapped, the front wheel departed the bike leaving the bike and me doing 3 flips as the forks dug into the dirt. By the way the front wheel is in almost perfect condition. I didn't hit anything.

by gertarg
on May 14th, 2005, 3:49 am
Forum: General Discussion
Topic:
Replies:
Views:

* [Jump to post](#)

Front forks total failure on '00 F650GS.

I own a F650 GS that I received new in June of 2000. After about 5,000 miles, I experienced a catastrophic failure of the castings on both side of the front forks. I sustained major injuries.

BMW has admitted to knowing of 3 nearly identical failures before they redesigned the forks, adding more material. They decided not to notify owners.

I'm wondering if any Chain Gang members know of similar failures.

Gertarg

by gertarg
on May 14th, 2005, 3:39 am
Forum: General Discussion
Topic:
Replies:
Views:

* [Jump to post](#)

Based on that information, BMW admit to knowing of four such failures before they did the redesign. We must assume that there were several others that they didn't know about or were never identified from post-fatality analysis. And consider that they may or may not have admitted what they knew.

So the question now is, when did they redesign the part and start fitting the new parts to bikes? We thought that the new parts were fitted to bikes produced after June 2003, but the Australian guy above has a friend who bought a new Dakar that was manufactured in December 2002, and that has the revised fork castings fitted!

Therefore, if anybody here wants to know whether they have the

post-redesign castings on their F650GS or Dakar, or the early suspect castings, could I direct you to this thread on Advrider?

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

There's a link on the first post there to a tool that will let you determine from the VIN of your F650GS/Dakar what date it was manufactured, and pictures you can use to determine whether you have the old forks or the 'beefed up' ones. Could I ask you to take the time to post a quick message there indicating the date your bike was built and what fork castings are fitted, just so a picture of when production really did change over can emerge?

Cheers!

Ken Haylock



30-10-08, 07:21

#7

talltony

Subscriber

Subscribed
Tosser



Join Date: Mar 2005
Location: Dorset,UK
Posts: 304



From BMW UK

I've posted an email I sent to BMW ,and their reply, here:

<http://www.advrider.com/forums/showp...4&postcount=41>

Tony



04-11-08, 01:14

#8

alcanara

Member



Join Date: Apr 2007
Location: Harrogate and Murcia, Spain
Posts: 74



I am no expert.... but all the pictures of the failed fork castings looked incredibly porous.... very gaseous castings indeed????!!!

Stuart



04-11-08, 02:03

#9

Flipfly

Master Mooser (10th Dan)

Subscribed
Tosser



Mine are still going 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

I'll be giving it a good flapping around Wales at the weekend, I'll let you know how I get on.....if I survive 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

Join Date: May 2006
Location: Stoke on Trent
Posts: 4,855



04-11-08, 18:56

#10

AxeGrinder

Recovering 2 wheel hooligan

Subscribed
Tosser

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Wirral
Posts: 197

Hey Flip...

Isn't your bike newer than the pre '03 problem bikes? The forks changed on later models...my 05 has the new style casting...although it has no engine (it's on a bench, I should finish rebuild this week, then take my time rebuilding the bike!!!)

see piccy here....

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

Hope yer doin OK...



04-11-08, 23:31

#11

Flipfly

Master Mooser (10th Dan)

Subscribed
Tosser



Join Date: May 2006
Location: Stoke on Trent
Posts: 4,855

Quote:

Originally Posted by **AxeGrinder**

Hey Flip...

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see piccy here....

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

Hope yer doin OK...



Hi ian

Doin great fella, hope to see you out and about on the lanes again soon.

Re forks, nope, mines a 51 plate so right age for the death to occur.

If it does, just remember I was having fun riding my bike, the only other good way to go is for the wife to perform death by blow job 🤔🤔

The latter is alot less likely than fork failure, it was my birthday in August so I've got another 9 or so months before I have to run that little gauntlet 🙄



Mav

Sponsored by Volvic
Moderator



Join Date: Aug 2006
Location: Glos.
Posts: 1,792

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Flipfly**

*Hi ian
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Very funny Flip



AdamZimmer

New Member (less than 15 Posts)

Join Date: Feb 2009
Location: hawaii
Posts: 1

650 fork failure

Hi



Wonderful info guys....The list of apps looks great.....and i thank

U..

www.staffingpower.com

sentersoftech



WayneC

New Member (less than 15 Posts)

Join Date: Oct 2008
Location: Sydney, Australia
Posts: 5

The answer is it is not a USA problem. See links below for UK discussion on f650 UK

<http://www.f650.co.uk/index.htm?chil...=fork+failures>

<http://www.f650.co.uk/index.htm?chil...=fork+failures>

Failures also recorded in Germany, Italy, Australia

Official US NHTSA reports total 5

The report Numbers are 10244404, 10252808, 10238415, 10245369,

10250116



21-03-09, 16:57

#15

BradleyDalton

New Member (less than 15 Posts)

Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: hawaii
Posts: 1

650 fork failure

Hi

thanks for ur useful info...

its rocking..



21-03-09, 20:34

#16

Foodle

Member



Join Date: Oct 2006
Location: Nottingham
Posts: 62

Hi,

I wrote my first 52 plate 650 GS off a few years back. I put the bike down trying to avoid the pannier from the guy in front who decided to deposit it 'dam buster style' right in front of me 😞

My front wheel went vertical to the ground as I slid along and it snapped off at the same points as detailed in those articles. I never hit anything, fortunately, just slid down the middle of the road. I was doing about 30-35 mph. The break looked very much like an aero bar, like a bubble effect within the metal.

Very interesting reading.

Hope number 2 holds up better 🙄



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650 & 450 singles



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"Its about being a grown up hooligan - and if that means a dark visor, remus open pipe and a bit of speeding out of town then all well and good"

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