

how install harley clutch push rod

How to Install Harley Clutch Push Rod

Installing the clutch push rod on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle is a crucial task that can significantly influence the performance of your bike's clutch system. A properly functioning clutch is vital for smooth gear transitions and overall riding experience. This article provides a detailed guide on how to install a Harley clutch push rod, covering everything from necessary tools and preparation to step-by-step instructions and troubleshooting tips.

Understanding the Clutch System

Before diving into the installation process, it's essential to understand what the clutch push rod is and its role in the clutch system.

What is a Clutch Push Rod?

The clutch push rod is a critical component in the clutch mechanism of Harley-Davidson motorcycles. It connects the clutch lever to the clutch pressure plate, enabling the rider to disengage the clutch when shifting gears.

Why Replace the Clutch Push Rod?

- Wear and Tear: Over time, the push rod can wear down, leading to poor clutch performance.
- Damage: Physical damage due to improper installation or external factors can necessitate replacement.
- Upgrades: Some riders may choose to install a push rod to enhance performance or compatibility with aftermarket components.

Tools and Materials Needed

Before starting the installation, ensure you have the following tools and materials ready:

- Tools:
- Socket set (standard and metric)
- Torque wrench
- Screwdriver set
- Pliers
- Clean cloth/rags

- Oil catch pan
- Materials:
 - New clutch push rod
 - Lubricant (recommended for your specific model)
 - Replacement gaskets (if necessary)

Preparation Steps

Before installing the new clutch push rod, it's essential to prepare your motorcycle and workspace.

1. Safety First

- Ensure the motorcycle is on a stable surface and securely supported using a stand.
- Disconnect the battery to prevent any electrical mishaps during the installation process.

2. Drain the Transmission Fluid

- Place an oil catch pan under the transmission.
- Remove the transmission drain plug using the appropriate socket and allow the fluid to drain completely.
- Replace the drain plug once all the fluid has been drained.

3. Remove the Clutch Cover

- Locate the bolts securing the clutch cover.
- Using the socket set, carefully remove the bolts and lift the clutch cover off. Be mindful of any gaskets that may need replacing.

4. Inspect Surrounding Components

- Before proceeding, inspect other components within the clutch assembly for wear or damage.
- Replace any damaged parts to ensure optimal performance.

Step-by-Step Installation of the Harley Clutch

Push Rod

Now that you have prepared your workspace and gathered the necessary tools, follow these steps to install the new clutch push rod.

1. Remove the Old Clutch Push Rod

- Locate the old clutch push rod within the clutch assembly.
- Carefully pull it out, noting how it was positioned for proper installation of the new rod.

2. Compare the Old and New Push Rods

- Before installation, compare the old push rod with the new one to ensure they are of the same length and diameter. This step is crucial for compatibility.

3. Lubricate the New Push Rod

- Apply a light coat of lubricant to the new clutch push rod. This will help it slide into position easily and prevent premature wear.

4. Install the New Clutch Push Rod

- Insert the new push rod into the same location as the old one.
- Make sure it is seated correctly against the clutch pressure plate.

5. Reassemble the Clutch Components

- If you removed any additional parts during the process, carefully reassemble them in reverse order.
- Ensure all components are aligned and seated correctly.

6. Reattach the Clutch Cover

- Place the clutch cover back onto the assembly.
- Secure it with the bolts you removed earlier. Use a torque wrench to ensure they are tightened to the manufacturer's specifications.

7. Refill Transmission Fluid

- Remove the fill plug on the transmission.
- Using a funnel, refill the transmission with new fluid as specified in your owner's manual.
- Replace the fill plug once done.

8. Reconnect the Battery

- Reconnect the motorcycle battery and ensure all connections are secure.

9. Test the Clutch

- Start the motorcycle and allow it to warm up.
- Test the clutch lever to ensure it engages and disengages smoothly.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even with careful installation, you may encounter some common issues. Here's how to address them:

1. Clutch Slipping

- Check Adjustment: Ensure that the clutch cable is properly adjusted. A loose cable can cause clutch slipping.
- Inspect Components: Look for worn or damaged clutch plates and replace them if necessary.

2. Hard Clutch Pull

- Cable Adjustment: Check the clutch cable for proper tension. Adjust as needed to reduce resistance.
- Lubrication: Ensure that the push rod and other moving parts are adequately lubricated.

3. Noise When Engaging Clutch

- Inspect for Loose Parts: Ensure that all bolts and components are securely fastened.
- Check for Damage: Look for any signs of damage in the push rod or surrounding components.

Conclusion

Installing a Harley clutch push rod is a straightforward yet vital task that can enhance the performance of your motorcycle. By following the steps outlined in this article, you can ensure that the installation is done correctly and efficiently. Always remember that proper maintenance of your clutch system is essential for a safe and enjoyable riding experience. If you encounter any issues beyond your expertise during installation, don't hesitate to consult a professional mechanic for assistance. Happy riding!

Frequently Asked Questions

What tools do I need to install a Harley clutch push rod?

You will need a socket set, a torque wrench, a flathead screwdriver, and possibly a clutch puller for some models.

What is the first step in installing a Harley clutch push rod?

The first step is to remove the primary cover to access the clutch assembly.

Do I need to drain the primary fluid before installing the clutch push rod?

Yes, it is recommended to drain the primary fluid to prevent spills and to ensure a clean working environment.

How do I know if the clutch push rod needs to be replaced?

Signs of wear include difficulty in engaging or disengaging the clutch, unusual noises, or visible damage to the push rod.

Is it necessary to adjust the clutch after installing the push rod?

Yes, after installation, you should adjust the clutch to ensure proper engagement and disengagement.

Can I install a Harley clutch push rod without professional help?

Yes, if you have basic mechanical skills and tools, you can install it yourself by following a detailed guide.

What are the common mistakes to avoid when replacing the clutch push rod?

Common mistakes include not properly torquing the bolts, forgetting to adjust the clutch, and not inspecting other components for wear.

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