

how to replace clutch in buell blast

how to replace clutch in buell blast is a task that many motorcycle enthusiasts may find themselves facing at some point in their ownership experience. The Buell Blast, known for its lightweight and nimble handling, is a popular choice among riders, but like all motorcycles, it may require maintenance and part replacements. Replacing the clutch is a crucial maintenance task that can improve your bike's performance and ensure a smoother ride. This article will guide you through the entire process of replacing the clutch in a Buell Blast, covering essential steps, tools needed, and tips for a successful replacement. By the end, you will have a comprehensive understanding of how to tackle this job confidently.

- Understanding the Clutch System
- Tools and Materials Needed
- Preparation Steps
- Step-by-Step Clutch Replacement Procedure
- Post-Replacement Checks
- Common Issues and Troubleshooting

Understanding the Clutch System

The clutch in a Buell Blast operates as a vital component that engages and disengages the engine from the transmission. This mechanism allows the rider to change gears smoothly without damaging the drivetrain. A faulty clutch can lead to slipping, difficulty in shifting, or complete disengagement. Understanding how the clutch works within the Buell Blast's system will help you recognize signs of wear and tear, and when it is time for a replacement.

Types of Clutches

There are generally two types of clutches used in motorcycles: wet and dry clutches. The Buell Blast features a wet clutch, which is bathed in engine oil. This design helps with cooling and lubrication, but it can also lead to quicker wear if the oil is not maintained properly. Regular checks on the clutch performance, alongside oil changes, can prolong its life and ensure optimal functionality.

Tools and Materials Needed

Before you begin the replacement process, it is crucial to gather all the necessary tools and materials. Having everything on hand will streamline the task and reduce the risk of interruptions. Here's a comprehensive list of what you will need:

- Socket set (including metric sizes)
- Torque wrench
- Flathead screwdriver
- Phillips screwdriver
- Clutch tool (if applicable)
- New clutch plates
- Clutch spring kit
- Oil (specific to Buell Blast requirements)
- Shop towels or rags
- Drain pan

Preparation Steps

Preparation is key to successfully replacing the clutch in your Buell Blast. Start by ensuring that you are working in a safe, well-lit environment with adequate space for your tools and motorcycle. Follow these preparation steps:

1. Read the Service Manual

Consult the Buell Blast service manual for specific instructions related to your model year. The manual provides essential details about torque specifications and part numbers. Familiarizing yourself with this information will facilitate a smoother process.

2. Safety First

Wear appropriate safety gear, including gloves and goggles. Ensure that the motorcycle is on a stable surface and use a motorcycle stand to keep it upright during the repair process.

3. Drain the Engine Oil

Before beginning the clutch replacement, you need to drain the engine oil to prevent spills. Place a drain pan under the engine, remove the oil drain plug, and allow the oil to fully drain. This step is essential as it prevents contamination during the clutch replacement.

Step-by-Step Clutch Replacement Procedure

Now that you are prepared, you can begin the step-by-step process of clutch replacement in your Buell Blast. Follow these detailed instructions carefully to ensure a successful replacement.

1. Remove the Primary Cover

The first step is to remove the primary cover to access the clutch assembly. Use a socket wrench to remove the bolts securing the primary cover. Carefully detach the cover, taking care not to damage the gasket. If the gasket is reusable, set it aside for later; otherwise, prepare to install a new one.

2. Remove the Clutch Assembly

Once the primary cover is off, you will see the clutch assembly. Use the appropriate tools to remove any retaining clips or bolts securing the clutch pack. Carefully slide out the clutch plates and springs, noting their arrangement for reinstallation.

3. Inspect Components

Before installing new parts, inspect the clutch basket and components for any signs of wear or damage. Look for grooves or discoloration on the plates and ensure that the basket is not warped. Replace any damaged components as necessary.

4. Install New Clutch Plates

Begin installing the new clutch plates, ensuring that they are oriented correctly. The friction plates and

steel plates should alternate. Place the springs in their designated spots and tighten the bolts to the manufacturer's recommended torque specifications.

5. Reassemble the Primary Cover

Once the new clutch is installed, it's time to reattach the primary cover. If you are using a new gasket, apply a thin layer of gasket maker if needed, and secure the cover by tightening the bolts in a crisscross pattern to ensure even pressure.

Post-Replacement Checks

After replacing the clutch, it is important to perform several checks to ensure everything is functioning correctly. Here are some key post-replacement steps:

1. Refill Engine Oil

Once the primary cover is back in place, refill the engine with the appropriate type and amount of oil as specified in the service manual. Start the engine and allow it to idle for a few minutes to circulate the oil.

2. Test the Clutch Operation

With the bike on a stand, pull the clutch lever and shift through the gears. Ensure that the clutch engages and disengages smoothly without any slipping. If adjustments are needed, refer to the service manual for the correct procedure.

3. Take a Test Ride

Finally, take your Buell Blast for a short test ride. Pay attention to how the clutch feels during operation. If you experience any issues, revisit your installation steps to troubleshoot any potential problems.

Common Issues and Troubleshooting

Even after a successful installation, you may encounter some common issues with your new clutch. Being aware of these can save you time and frustration.

1. Slipping Clutch

If the clutch slips after replacement, it may be due to improper installation or insufficient oil. Ensure that the clutch plates are installed in the correct order and that the oil level is appropriate.

2. Difficulty Shifting Gears

Difficulty in shifting may indicate that the clutch is not fully disengaging. Check the clutch cable adjustment or hydraulic fluid levels if applicable.

3. Unusual Noises

Any grinding or unusual noises can indicate improper installation or damaged components. Inspect the clutch assembly again and ensure everything is securely fastened.

Conclusion

Replacing the clutch in a Buell Blast is a task that requires patience and attention to detail. By following the outlined steps and ensuring all components are correctly installed, you can effectively restore your motorcycle's performance. Regular maintenance and timely replacements will not only extend the life of your bike but also enhance your riding experience. Armed with the knowledge from this guide, you can confidently tackle this project and enjoy the ride ahead.

Q: What are the signs that my Buell Blast clutch needs replacing?

A: Common signs include slipping during acceleration, difficulty shifting gears, and a spongy clutch lever feel. If you notice these symptoms, it may be time for a replacement.

Q: How long does it take to replace the clutch in a Buell Blast?

A: Depending on your skill level and the availability of tools, the replacement can take anywhere from 2 to 5 hours.

Q: Do I need special tools to replace the clutch?

A: While a basic socket set and torque wrench are essential, a specific clutch tool may be required depending on the model year of your Buell Blast.

Q: Can I replace the clutch myself, or should I take it to a mechanic?

A: If you have basic mechanical skills and the right tools, you can replace the clutch yourself. However, if you are unsure, it's advisable to consult a professional mechanic.

Q: How often should I check my Buell Blast clutch?

A: Regular maintenance checks are recommended every 5,000 miles or during oil changes. Look for signs of wear and tear during these inspections.

Q: What type of oil should I use after replacing the clutch?

A: Use the type of oil specified in the Buell Blast service manual, typically a synthetic motorcycle oil that meets the required specifications.

Q: Is it necessary to replace the clutch springs when changing the clutch plates?

A: While it is not always necessary, replacing the clutch springs is recommended to ensure optimal performance and to prevent future issues.

Q: What should I do if the new clutch does not engage properly?

A: If the clutch does not engage, check the installation and ensure that the clutch cable is properly adjusted. Inspect for any air in the hydraulic system if applicable.

Q: Are there any specific brands of clutch kits recommended for the Buell Blast?

A: It is best to use OEM parts or reputable aftermarket brands known for quality, such as Barnett or EBC, which offer kits specifically for the Buell Blast.

Q: What is the warranty on replacement parts for the Buell Blast?

A: Warranty terms can vary by manufacturer and retailer. Always check with the supplier for specific warranty details regarding replacement parts.

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