



Baker 6 speeds, OD or DD

In the transmission world, probably the most recognized manufacturer is Baker. They offer a magnitude of transmission and drivetrain related parts. Probably their strongest claim to fame is the Direct Drive 6 speed tranny. They also offer an overdrive 6 speed trans, but this trans has taken a back seat view to the more advantageous DD unit. What's so great about this tranny you ask? Well let me tell ya...

First off, you obviously gain an extra gear to play with. The final drive ratio stays the same as the stock Harley ratio of 1:1, but the kit from Baker comes with a longer chain and a 28 tooth motor gear. This gear essentially "overdrives" your primary drive ratio, giving you that few hundred rpm drop at highway speeds in 6th gear. The rest of the gears feel just like the stock five in your original trans. There's also the quieter operation of the DD box due to helical cut 4th, 5th, and 6th gears compared to the OD's straight cut gears. Also, you retain more of the engines overall torque to the rear wheel because the DD utilizes a single gear for overdrive; whereas the OD uses two sets of gears (4 total gears) to achieve this. More gears to move, less power to the ground.

If your are interested in upgrading to one of these units, installation is fairly easy for the mechanically adept. I recommend buying a full transmission gasket set including primary gaskets and a factory repair manual for detailed tear down and assembly instructions as well as torque specs. And while you have the trans and drive disassembled, install all seals and gaskets pertaining to your bike. There's nothing worse than tearing your bike down a second time to replace something that leaked, when you could have replaced it the first time. Also reassemble with fresh fluids. There will be a break in period so plan on another fluid change shortly. That's it from me for now. Until next time; keep it real, keep it safe, but don't keep it real safe (not much fun in that).

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