

Tips on Tire, Oil and Light Maintenance

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Even a “bullet proof” metric bike needs some love now and then.

One of the reasons you bought your bike was the great engineering and mechanical reliability it offers, but it will only stay in that condition if you keep up on your manufacturers recommended services. The old saying, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” comes to mind when we start talking about

manufacturers recommended services. I cannot tell you how many times we have seen a bike with major damage that could have been prevented by routine maintenance.

Interval services inspect, adjust and repair wear points on your bike that, for the most part, are out of sight and, therefore, out of mind. When was the last time you torqued and lubed the steering head bearings, changed the fork oil, changed the brake fluid, inspected the brake and fuel lines, lubed and adjusted the drive chain, serviced the rear drive unit, lubed the cables, cleaned electrical connections, lubed the swing arm, measured the rotor wear, checked the coolant, made valve adjustment or sync'd the carbs? Any one of these areas, left un-serviced, can leave you stranded on the side of the road or result in major damage to you and/or your bike.

The recommended services will vary greatly by the make and model of the bike you ride. Your owners manual lists what should be done and when. Most bikes require a minor interval service in the 6000 - 10,000 mile range and major service in the 12,000 to 16,000 mile range. Now that summer is here, make sure you have your coolant checked, test your battery and watch those fork seals. The heat will put stress on these areas and, if not serviced, your bike will let you know, in no uncertain terms, it is time for a little love.

See you soon

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