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# IH: Engine Control - Sub-02A

## Bench Testing an Ironhead Solenoid



### Three tests to bench test the solenoid, text and video ... <sup>2)</sup>

#### To test the pull-in coil:

1. Insert a deep socket part way into solenoid.
2. Connect battery -ve to the large short stud of the solenoid (normal output to starter motor).
3. Momentarily apply +12 volt jumper wire to the small terminal of the solenoid (normally from the starter relay).
4. The socket should pull in.  
Leave it pulled in to test the hold-in coil.

#### To test the hold-in coil:

1. Move the battery -ve jumper from the large short stud to the solenoid case.
2. Apply +12 volts to the small terminal and leave it connected.
3. Try to pull the socket out of the solenoid.  
The hold-in coil should resist your effort to pull the socket out while +12 volts is applied to the small terminal.
4. Remove the +12 volts from the small terminal.  
The socket should slide easily back out of the solenoid.

**To load test the high-current contact plate of the solenoid:**

A headlight bulb works well for this.

1. Jumper from batt +ve to to +ve of light.
2. Jumper from large long stud to -ve of light.
3. Jumper from batt -ve to large short stud.
4. Manually push in the plunger.

The bulb should light up.

**And here is the YouTube video:** [Bench Test Solenoid from IronHead Sportster](#)

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1)

photo by IronMick of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/140741-how-to-bench-test-a-solenoid-pic-vid?t=1525907>

2)

IronMick of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/140741-how-to-bench-test-a-solenoid-pic-vid?t=1525907>

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