

WHEEL SPOKE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE / SS, SX-350

Previous bulletin Nos. 441 and 535 stressed the importance of maintaining correct wheel spoke tension on SS/SX-350 models to prevent loosening and possible spoke breakage. Because we have received reports of progressive wheel spoke breakage, especially on off-road SX-350 models used severely, we are again emphasizing this important item of preventive maintenance.

Check and tighten spokes at least every 2000 miles as a regular maintenance item, after the initial 500 and 1000 mile dealer inspection periods. Failure to maintain correct spoke tension will cause the hub (hooked) ends of any loose spokes to receive repeated bending stresses from road shock, possibly causing breakage. The breakage or loosening of one or more spokes will increase the load transferred to the remaining spokes, progressively breaking them.

The recommended procedure is to see that all wheel spokes have a uniform metallic ring when tapped with a nipple wrench. When installing or tightening spokes, use spoke nipple wrench, part No. 94682-61, to draw up the nipple end of the spokes to moderate tightness. Then seat the spoke heads firmly into the recessed spoke holes in the hub, using a drift and hammer. Finish tightening these spokes until the tightness matches remaining wheel spokes, being careful to maintain wheel rim trueness according to Service Manual procedure.

If a considerable number of spokes on the same wheel have become broken or loosened, we suggest that you also replace the remainder of apparently undamaged spokes which may have become weakened due to over-stress.

As part of the wheel inspection procedure, also check the 8 rear wheel sprocket rubber bushings for proper fit, also check for correct rear chain adjustment.

We suggest that you pass on this information to your Sprint customers who perform their own motorcycle service.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR CO., INC.