

SERVICE BULLETIN

M-871

June 7, 1983



GIRLING REAR BRAKE SERVICE

Abutment Shim

The stainless steel abutment shims used on Girling rear brake calipers are now available as service parts. These brake calipers are used on 1982 and later FXR and XL models, 1983 FXSB, FXWG and FLHS models and late 1983 FXE models.

These shims are available under Part No. 41665-82 and fit all Girling rear brake calipers from 1982 through current production. Detailed installation instructions are furnished with each package of two shims.

Bleeding the Brake System

Anytime a hydraulic brake line or fitting is opened the fitting should be flushed with brake fluid and the brake system must be bled. This is in order to eliminate any air or contaminants from the brake system. Air in the fluid will cause the brake pedal to have a spongy feel. If a contaminant becomes lodged in the seat of a fitting,

leakage of fluid could occur, and/or air could be drawn into the system.

The Girling rear brake uses a 5/8" diameter master cylinder piston rather than the 3/4" piston used on other models. This is possible because the Girling system is more efficient and requires less fluid displacement.

The most common method of bleeding the system is to press the brake pedal and open the bleeder fitting to force fluid, air and/or contaminants out. With the smaller piston used on the Girling master cylinder, less fluid will be moved with each stroke of the pedal. Therefore, to fully purge the system, more pedal strokes will be required. Also, because of the smaller fluid volume present in the master cylinder, a given number of air bubbles will have a greater effect than they would in a larger volume of fluid. For these reasons, thorough bleeding of the Girling system is important, therefore, it may be necessary to bleed the system more than one time. Bleeding procedure details are provided in the brake section of the latest Service Manual.