

SERVICE BULLETIN

M-875

October 11, 1983



BRAKE PAD INSPECTION

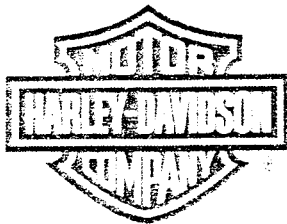
The normal brake pad inspection interval is 2500 miles for all 1982 and later models. This is adequate under normal riding conditions. More frequent inspections should be made if the vehicle is ridden under more adverse conditions such as steep hills, heavy traffic, etc.

Although we do not recommend it, some riders prefer to use the rear brake only. This, too, will require more frequent brake pad inspections.

A letter is being sent to all registered owners of 1982 and later vehicles urging them to monitor their brake pad wear on both front and rear wheels. A copy is attached for your information.

You may find that a dial vernier caliper is easier to use than a 6 in. rule as suggested in the letter. Brake pad inspections should be part of every scheduled maintenance service. Refer to the appropriate Service Manual for further brake inspection and repair procedures.

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Harley-Davidson Motor Co., Inc., 3700 W. Juneau Ave., P.O. Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 414/342-4680

SAMPLE COPY

Dear Harley-Davidson Owner:

October 14, 1983

As you know, obtaining top performance from your Harley-Davidson motorcycle depends in part on the care and maintenance you give your vehicle. This is especially important with brake systems since, in certain situations, your personal safety could depend on proper brake performance.

Your Owner's Manual, the Owner's Maintenance Guide and the Service Manual all recommend that your motorcycle's brake pads be inspected for wear at least every 2,500 miles. Unfortunately, we sometimes receive indications that, in some cases, this is not being done. If the brake pad friction material is $1/16$ in. thick or less (the thickness of a nickel), the pads must be replaced. See Figure 1. If this routine maintenance is ignored, loss in braking performance and brake system component damage could occur.

Visual inspection of the brake pads can be made with the aid of a flashlight without removing the caliper. Typically, by viewing the lower rear area of each of the front and rear calipers the pad friction material thickness may be determined. If the friction material measures $1/16$ in. thick or less, replace the pads immediately. Always replace brake pads in pairs.

However, on 1982 and later FXR, XL, XR Models; 1983 and later FXSB, FXWG, FXDG, FXST, FLHS Models and late 1983 and later FXE Models the rear brake outer pad must be measured from the caliper bracket side using a 6 in. rule. Place the 6 in. rule against the brake disc through the notch in the bracket. See Figure 2. The outer surface of the brake pad backing plate should measure $1/4$ in. or more away from the brake disc. If it measures less than $1/4$ in., replace both brake pads immediately. (Note: This $1/4$ in. dimension includes the thickness of the backing plate plus the minimum $1/16$ in. for friction material.)

As stated in our various owner publications, we urge you to inspect your brake pads for wear at the recommended intervals or have your authorized Harley-Davidson dealer do it for you. Under normal riding conditions, every 2,500 miles is adequate. However, if you frequently ride under more adverse conditions, steep hills, heavy traffic, etc. or tend to use the rear brake only (which we recommend against), more frequent inspections, 1,000 miles or less, will be necessary. Please see your Harley-Davidson dealer if you have any questions.

Our interest is that you receive many miles of trouble free, enjoyable riding from your Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Regular attention to the various maintenance items listed in your Owner's Manual will help ensure your satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wacker
Director/Motorcycle Service

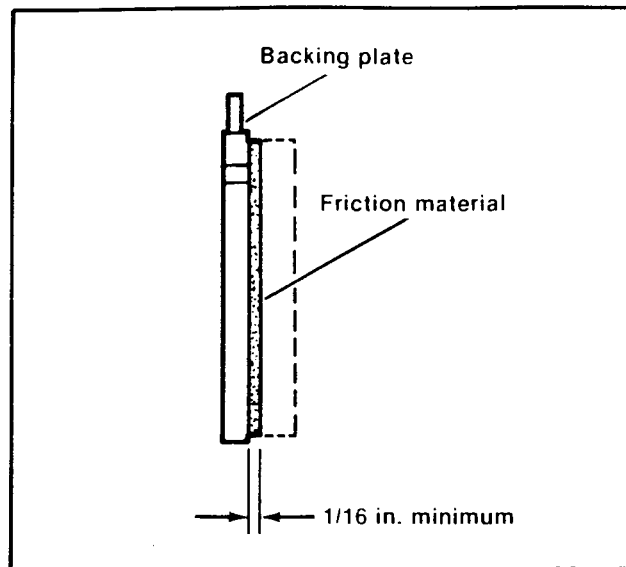


Figure 1. Brake Pad Side View

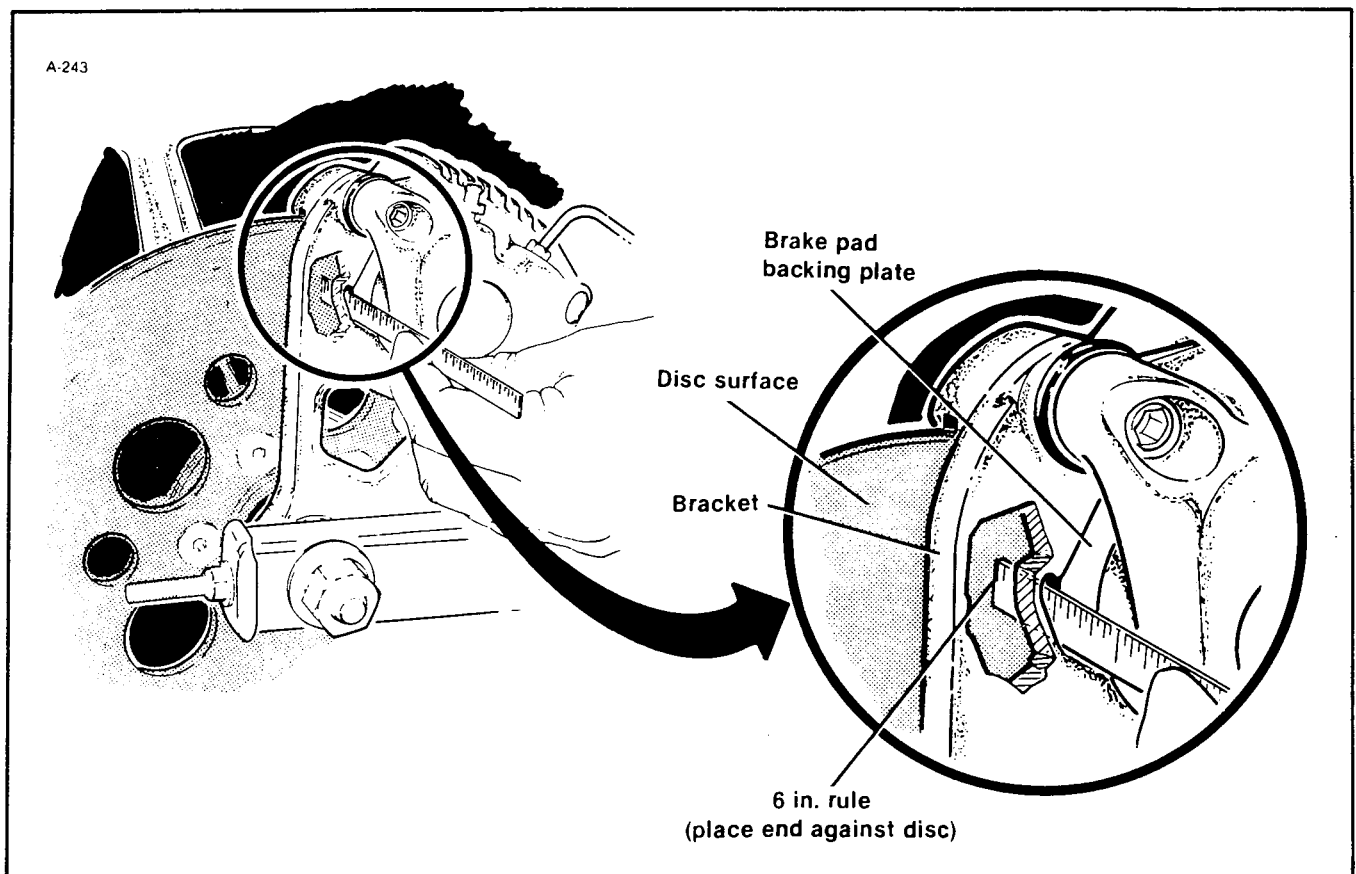


Figure 2. Measuring Rear Brake Outer Pad — 1982 & Later FXR, XL, XR; 1983 & Later FXSB, FXWG, FXDG, FXST, FLHS; Late 1983 & Later FXE Models