

Motorcycle Accessories that Make Sense for All

Looking for that last minute gift or a stocking stuffer for that motorcyclist in your life? Two versatile and inexpensive accessories that should be, but are not, standard equipment on all touring bikes are a cigarette lighter receptacle and a battery monitor.

A cigarette lighter receptacle can come in handy when trying to make an emergency road service or 911 call from your cell phone and realizing that the cell phone battery is weak or almost dead. The receptacle may also be used with an air pump to inflate an air mattress or pillow when camping during an extended ride. Best of all, when it comes to charging a weak battery, instead having to remove side covers, disconnecting, and then removing the battery, you simply have to plug the charger into the socket to recharge the battery. You will need to wire your charger to a male cigarette lighter plug.

The receptacle should be “hot” wired directly to the battery, using an inline fuse, so that it is useable whether the ignition is on or not. Since the receptacle is not waterproof, it should be mounted pointing straight down in a luggage compartment or fairing pocket.

A new type of battery monitor, Battery Bug by Argus, is now available direct from the manufacturer or through the GWRRA national website. Stu Oltman, Senior Technical Editor Wing World Magazine, was instrumental in testing this device during the various stages of development and enthusiastically endorses it for reporting real time voltage and battery condition.

The unit contains a rugged waterproof display case and 2 meters of flexible cable with 6mm ring terminals which connect directly to the battery posts. The unit can be mounted to your dash, fairing, or concealed. The unit monitors percentage of remaining battery life, lost capacity, present battery voltage, and alternator charging voltage. It has audible alarms for low battery / recharge, replace battery / end of life, and damaging overcharge conditions. The beauty of this battery monitor is that you just install it and forget it. The Battery Bug will sound an alarm whenever the battery needs attention.

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