

# VT No. 31-9902

## RIDER BACKREST MOUNTING HARDWARE KIT

### WARNING

The rider's safety depends upon the correct installation of this kit. Use the appropriate service manual procedures. Improper installation of this kit could result in death or serious injury.

#### NOTE

This instruction sheet references service manual information. A service manual for your model motorcycle is available.

### Kit Contents

### INSTALLATION

1. **1988-1990 models:** Remove saddlebag covers from both sides of vehicle.
2. Remove seat mounting bolt(s), one for 1991-later and two for 1988-1990 models. Note hardware sequence for assembly.
3. Remove seat according to the instructions in the service manual.
4. Remove and discard two bolts securing handrail mounting plate to rear fender.

#### NOTE

Check nut threads in fender. Some 1994 and later models have coarse threads (5/16-18). Make sure the 5/16-18 x 7/8 inch bolts are used in these applications. Attempting to use fine thread bolts (5/16-24) in coarse holes or coarse thread bolts in fine thread holes will damage threads in holes and on bolts.

5. **1998 and earlier models:** Obtain two 5/16-24 x 7/8 inch bolts or 5/16-18 x 7/8 inch bolts on some 1994 and later models). Add one flat washer and one lockwasher to each bolt.  
**1999 models:** Continue with Step 6. These models will not use Items 2, 3 or 4.
6. Position backrest mounting bracket (6), with tab toward front of vehicle, over holes in handrail mounting plate.

#### NOTE

Three holes are provided in each side of backrest mounting bracket for adjustment purposes. Use set of holes best suited for riding position and seat.

7. **1997 and 1998 FLTR models without handrail:** Place large 1-1/8 inch OD washers under backrest mounting bracket and secure with 5/16-18 x 7/8 inch bolts and washers. Tighten bolts to 19 ft-lbs (25 Nm).

**1998 and earlier models:** Secure backrest mounting bracket and handrail mounting plate to rear fender with hardware previously removed. Tighten bolts to 19 ft-lbs (25 Nm).

**1999 to 2008 models:** Remove plastic protective cap and locknut from stud. Leave the small plastic washer in place or the stud plate will fall out. Attach the backrest mounting bracket to stud plate with stock locknuts from stud plate.

*If the stud plate should fall down:* slip a piece of common battery vent tube through the hole in the fender. Attach the tube to one of the studs. Pull the tube up and maneuver the stud plate back into place. Secure with the small plastic washers. Removing the rear wheel may ease the installation of the stud plate. See service manual for instructions to remove and install rear wheels.

8. **1996 and earlier models:** Remove stock bolt, nut, and lockwasher securing rear fender to frame member. Use this nut, lockwasher and bolt to attach backrest mounting bracket support to frame member.

**1997 to 2008 models:** Slip clip nut over center hole of frame cross member behind battery. Attach bracket support to frame cross member by installing 1/4-20 x 1/2 inch bolt through hole in bracket support and threading bolt into clip nut. Tighten bolt securely.

9. Bend bracket support up to meet tab on backrest mounting bracket. *In some cases, it will be necessary to flip the bracket support over to accommodate the backrest.* Attach support to backrest mounting bracket with flange bolt and flange nut through hole in support that lines up with hole in backrest mounting bracket. Tighten securely.
10. Install the seat and saddlebag covers.

### WARNING

After installing seat, pull upward on seat to be sure it is locked in position. While riding, a loose seat can shift causing loss of control, which could result in death or serious injury.

11. Hold slit between rider and passenger seat open. On rider backrest, compress backrest rods and spring. Insert rods into backrest mounting bracket.
12. Adjust fore/aft position of backrest pad. Use 3/16 inch hex wrench to adjust set screw that is accessible through eyelet opening on rear of pad. *If possible, do not remove the set screw since it is difficult to install.*

#### NOTE

Some seats may limit the fore/aft mounting location of the backrest bracket.