

# Quick Custom Components

BY STEVE LITA

**I**t's no secret that I've been digging the factory-loaner Star 'Liner all summer long. And Yamaha was nice enough to let us mod it up a bit. Last issue, you'll remember we started with all the cool, black, genuine Star accessories we could wrangle. Now we'll add a few aftermarket touches. Rivco Products Inc. is well known for its custom, bolt-on accessories, and a chat with one of Rivco's tech guys had me convinced that we couldn't do without two of its best selling Roadliner/Stratoliner products: the rear brake pedal relocater rod and the curved laydown license holder.

The brake rod is designed to replace the original rear brake actuating rod under the right floorboard, and lowers the brake pedal height by about 2", giving better braking control as well as ease of braking. No more lifting my foot all the way up off the floorboard to find the rear brake pedal. By changing the brake pedal height, the danger of your foot getting stuck under the brake pedal during emergency braking situations is virtually eliminated. It installs easily in minutes and is invisible standing next to the bike.

As for the custom touch, the laydown plate bracket replaces the stock license plate holder with a custom, close-to-the-fender, curved plate holder that matches the contour of the fender. It also comes with a set of super-bright, wide-angle LED tail and brake lights. The LEDs provide a great deal of extra visibility for the stock taillight. Making my bike more visible to the tailgaters behind me is always a welcome thing. The mounting bracket is billet aluminum, the plate holder is laser-cut steel, and both are triple-chrome-plated. All the wiring is concealed, and no drilling is required. Just be careful when working with the stock taillight off the bike. Protect the painted surface from scratches with shop towels, a blanket, or painter's tape.

Installation took less than an afternoon. And the only special tools you'll need are some extra-long needlenose pliers to pluck out the stock brake rod cotter pin, and maybe a set of 1/4" drive metric hex bits when you reach up inside the rear fender to unbolt the rear taillamp. Go ahead and do these trick parts installs and your Roadliner or Stratoliner will look and feel its best.



1

The stock brake rod is longer than the Rivco replacement.



2

The stock rear brake pedal location is much too high and requires the rider to lift his foot off the floorboard.



3

But now the brake pedal is in just the right place, and full braking power is available.



4

The stock billboard license bracket looks like an afterthought. Even the billet frame couldn't do much to help the appearance.

**When feeding the LED wires through the factory grommet, try taping the ends together and forming the tape into a point. Then add a quick shot of spray silicone lube to the inside of the grommet, and the wires will slide right through.**



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**5** The Rivco Laydown kit comes with thin LED brake lights.



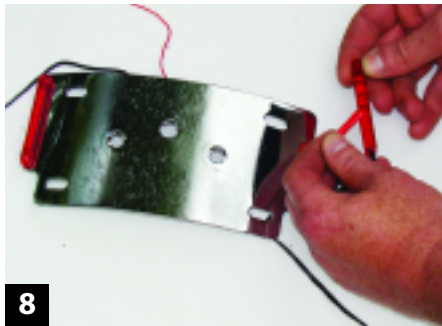
**10** From inside the fender, feed the LED wires through the stock fender grommet toward the back of the taillamp. There's plenty of room in the grommet, but it's a snug fit.



**7** Start by removing the taillamp and resting it on a towel or cushion to protect the finish on the rear fender. The billet Rivco bracket bolts on with special drilled hollow bolts.



**11** Tap into the stock signal and brake wires with scotchlocks.



**8** LED auxiliary brake lights are self-adhesive. Lace the wires through the holes in the bracket and stick 'em on.



**12** Once the lights were tested, I bolt the taillamp back in place and attach the license plate right-side bolts. Bend the plate over the arch of the bracket and affix the left bolts.



**9** Feed the LED wires through the hollow bolts and attach the bracket. Be careful not to pinch the wires.



**13** The LEDs provide extra running-light and brake-light visibility out back. The laydown plate hugs the rear fender line now. **RB**