

Batwing To The Rescue

BY STEVE LITA

A few years ago, I received a letter from a reader who expressed his dissatisfaction with clear, flat aftermarket windshields, and how they were (at the time) the only choice for metric motorcycle riders who wanted wind protection. The reader asked that we delve into the possibility of adapting a Harley-Davidson Ultra-style batwing fairing onto other models. A quick check with my neighbors next door at American Iron magazine proved that this was easier said than done. Unfortunately, this seemed to become yet another letter from a reader with a story idea that I could do nothing about — until today. As the years went on, I noticed one aftermarket company, and then another, and another, offering full-sized batwing front fairings for various applications. And they're not just for cutting the wind; some have audio systems, gauges, and power ports to further the tour-ability of your bike and expand its cockpit appointments. These are not descendants of windjammer fairings of old or swap meet Harley parts with crude adapter brackets. They're purpose-built accessories with proper hardware for easy mounting. If you've had enough of flat, lexan slabs before you and want your wind protection styled to your cruiser, read on.

The one I'm installing today comes from Dragonfly Cycle Concepts. Not fiberglass, instead it's made with an injection-molded composite process to produce smooth, perfect parts every time. Because the large panels are cured at 300 degrees F during the manufacturing process, the parts gain a high heat tolerance to post-production warping, and there's a perfect match between any two parts without the need for individual fitting. A smooth finish inside and out means light prep work is required for paint. An exact ratio of polymers means exact thickness and exterior quality is obtained and a Green manufacturing process reduces toxins in the workplace. Stainless steel mounting brackets holding the fairing together are formed and bonded to the inside from top to bottom, offering unmatched strength.

Note that the radio tuner pictured here is an older, first-generation automotive style. Dragonfly now offers an improved stereo package as an option, which includes a water-proof, chromed-face LCD screen stereo,

METRIC MOUNTING

These are metric applications for the Dragonfly fairing and what extra parts (if any) are required:

- ▶ Stratoliner S, Stratoliner Midnight: no extra parts needed.
- ▶ Road Star Silverado, Road Star Silverado S: no extra parts needed.
- ▶ Roadliner S, Roadliner Midnight: Must purchase windshield mounting kit # STR-2C503-40-00 from Yamaha dealership.
- ▶ Road Star, Road Star S: must purchase Silverado windshield mounting hardware from Yamaha (see dealer).
- ▶ Honda VTX 1800: must buy windshield clamps from Dragonfly. Fits all models except N.



1

The Dragonfly fairing comes partially assembled and weighs about 25 pounds.



2

Ours had an optional stereo, speakers, and cigarette-style power outlet installed.



3

This factory Yamaha/Star accessory windshield mount kit is required to install the Dragonfly on a Roadliner. Before installing the mounts on the forks, remove the outer half of the two-piece spool (arrows).



4

The windshield mounts bolt to the forks and lower triple clamps with supplied Allen head hardware.

6" x 9" speakers, antenna, wiring harness, and a USB cable for an MP3 player.

Mounting onto detachable windshield mounts, the fairing is quickly removed in less than two minutes after initial installation and wiring. The fairing weighs approximately 25 pounds fully loaded. This is something to bear in mind, as adding weight to the front forks of a bike alters the steering and suspension feel, and so, too, does the effect of the wind pressing against the fairing. I felt a noticeable softening of the front end on our test Star Roadliner at speed with the Dragonfly installed. However the payoff was gained in long-distance touring comfort with less wind buffeting on my chest, and, of course, the comforting sounds of music for the ride.

ACCESSORIZING AN ACCESSORY

Harley-Davidson fairing accessories for '96 to current Electra Glide models will fit the Dragonfly fairing with no adjustment. This opens up a whole world of add-ons like nose bras, mirrors, chrome moldings, wind deflectors, and replacement windshields so you can fully customize your ride.



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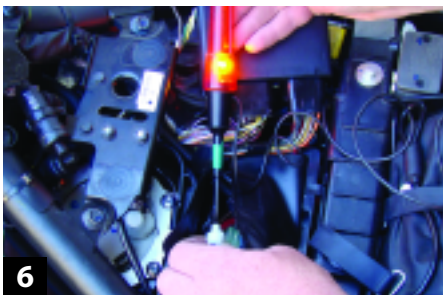
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5 Route the Dragonfly wire harness under the tank to the battery area below the seat. Two wires connect to the battery positive terminal with an inline fuse, one wire to ground, and the brown wire requires 12 volts when ignition key is on.



6 On a Roadliner, there is an accessory tap in the factory wire harness under the engine ECU. Use a circuit tester to ensure voltage when the ignition is in the ON position.



7 The fairing easily sets onto the fork mounts. Lower bolts are for locating and for fairing brackets to pivot on only. The upper bolts will be tightened to secure the fairing in place.



8 I rested the fairing on the lower pivot bolts, but kept it propped up and connected the four-pin wire harness. The weatherproof trailer harness provides power to the radio and power port. Then I put the fairing into place and tightened the upper mount bolts.



9 Up top, the 4" smoked windscreen slides into place after the three mounting screws are loosened. The windscreen is sandwiched between the inner and outer fairing halves.



10 Our Dragonfly was equipped with a first-generation, automotive-style radio behind a waterproof, marine-style sliding door enclosure. I found a USB stick with music burned on it to be the most efficient form of entertainment. AM/FM tuner, CD player, and audio input jack are other sources for music on this model.



11 The finished product provides excellent wind protection, music, and good looks. Outer (front) half of the fairing can be removed and sent out for painting if desired, while the inner fairing with speakers and radio remains on the bike. **RB**

hard data

DRAGONFLY CYCLE CONCEPTS
Basic Fairing (DTF8), \$1,099
Dragonfly Stereo Package, \$650
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www.DragonflyCycleConcepts.com

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