

Lock It Or Lose It

BY STEVE LITA

I'd like to think all motorcyclists respect and watch out for each other and each other's belongings. However, there may be some unscrupulous individuals out there who have other plans. I know of a man who had the unfortunate experience of losing his tankbag when he went into a gas station to pay for fuel. And, of course, he kept his essentials in his tankbag when riding: wallet, cellphone, credit cards, keys. Another customer at the gas station helped himself to the bag and messed up the motorcyclist's life for a short period of time.

Taking a few precautions when we leave our bikes can make sure everything stays in its place. Of course there are no guarantees in life. Locks and cables can be snipped with bolt cutters. But I'm not gonna make it any easier for lowlives to help themselves to my goods. Check out this slick accessory lock from Bolt Lock Corporation. When it's not in use, all you notice on the bike is a funny-shaped T-washer on a bolt that is affixed to a strong mounting location on the bike. Keep the cable and lock handy in a storage compartment where it's easy to get to. It's a snap to press into use, taking only a few seconds of your time.

To install the bolt lock, first remove a bolt from just about anywhere on your bike; pick a sturdy location. If you select a hex head bolt, you can replace it with an equivalent socket head cap screw. Slide the bolt through the T-washer, use Loctite on the threads, and secure the washer to the motorcycle. Insert the L-shaped end of the cable through the D-rings or eyeport of a helmet, or snake it up the sleeve of a jacket then back through the eyelet end of the cable. Secure the L-end into the slot of either side of the bolt lock.

When you insert the end into the slot, rotate the cable end 90 degrees so that the end is pointing clockwise. Now turn the key 90 degrees clockwise, which locks the cable to the bolt lock. Next, slide the bolt lock over the flange on the bike-mounted T-washer. Insert the key in the fully locked position and turn the key clockwise 90 degrees to open the slot on the right. Another 90 degrees clockwise opens the bolt lock so you can slide it over the washer. Another 90 degrees clockwise opens the left slot. The final 90 degrees clockwise brings it back to the fully locked position.

Total installation time is about 10 minutes. It actually took longer to decide which bolt to use than it did to install the device. Bolt Lock also offers the lock in black or red as well as the chrome pictured here. **RB**



1 The bolt lock kit comes with the lock, two keys, T-shaped washer-attaching point, and 12" cable loop.



2 Find a location suitable for mounting the bolt lock T-washer. It'll accept up to a 3/8" or 10mm diameter bolt. Socket head cap screws work best. Dab thread-lock compound on the threads and reinsert the bolt mounted through the T-washer.



3 Loop the cable through your belongings, there's an eyelet at one end of the bolt lock cable. The bolt lock body will accept the flat end of the vinyl-coated cable.



4 The mounting locations are as varied as your imagination.