

Pressure Pundit

BY STEVE LITA

Show of hands: who likes to crawl around on his hands and knees looking for one of his motorcycle's tire valve stems, only to find he can't get to it and he has to roll the bike? Sorry folks, not me! Now, don't think on-board tire pressure monitoring systems were developed for lazy people; rather the convenience of having a real-time display of your bike's tire pressure and temperature is but a by-product of the enhanced safety and peace of mind you'll gain with these products.

Enter the Zadi RTS (Real Time Sensor) tire monitor system. There are several brands of this device on the market these days, but I like the ZADI for ease of installation and its large, dash-mounted display gauge. There's no wiring to run, so no need to wire into the bike's electrical system. The two wheel-mounted sensors are battery-powered (nonreplaceable batteries), and the rider display has a small, replaceable clock battery.

A sensor installed on the rim valve stem inside each tire measures air pressure and temperature, and sends this data to the central unit display. The central unit receives the raw data, makes calculations, then shows pressure and temperature on the display and warns the user if parameters are exceeded. The central unit can be mounted on the handlebar or on any flat surface. I chose to stick it on the dash of my Honda ST1100. The central unit is water-resistant and unclips for security when bike is left unattended.

Now I realize *easy installation* is relative. This one will take you the better part of a day, and perhaps require visiting the bike shop to have your wheels and tires remounted and balanced. But the convenience of not having to tap into bike power or wiring harnesses beats all for me. Besides, when was the last time you had your tires balanced anyway? Getting a balance job and gaining real-time tire pressure monitoring is killing two birds with one stone.

With the ZADI installed you gain added safety by knowing critical tire information. Tires perform better when pressure is correct, and they'll last longer, too. So put away your handheld gauge and stop crawling around on the ground.



1

The kit comes with pressure sensors, special tire valve stems, dash gauge, and handlebar bracket.

Be sure to balance the wheel/tire assemblies after installing the sensors as they weigh 1 ounce (including metal bracket) and will alter the wheel balance.



2

Demount the tires and install the new ZADI valve stems on the wheels. This metal bracket will hold the sensor.



3

Sensors are particular to front and rear wheel (they're marked; front shown).



4
Snap the sensors into the wheel brackets.
Remount and balance the tires.



5
Mount the dash gauge in clear view of the rider.
It's operated by a self-contained battery.



6
Tire pressure will read out ...



7
... and tire temp can be monitored as well. **RB**

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