

Powerlet Socket

MOTORCYCLISTS DO LIKE GADGETS. IT'S EVEN better when they are electric-powered. Well, motorcycles are unlike cars in many ways; for one thing, most bikes don't have factory-installed cigarette lighters or power outlets. Sure, you could ride down to your local auto parts store to buy a universal cigarette lighter. Then you could mount, fuse, and wire it all up to your ride. But unless you are a talented fabricator, you'll probably end up with an amateurish setup.

Sources

PKT-041 \$49.95
 PAC-036 \$28.95
POWERLET
 5520 Chicago Rd.
 Dept. RB
 Warren, MI 48092
 586/276-0906
 powerlet
 products.com

Hello, Powerlet electrical products. This company offers an impressive number of power outlet kits that include just about everything you need to do the job right. The hardware is high-quality, and the wire harnesses are prefabricated and loomed for clean installation. The sockets are ideal for motorcycle accessories, especially heated riding gear (more on that on page 81). A Powerlet kit may cost a little more than the auto parts method of scrounging, but it's worth it. Even if your bike isn't on Powerlet's list, there's a good chance it has a kit that will work just fine for your application. A host of add-ons and additional parts are also available.

I like gadgets, especially electric ones, and since my Kawasaki KZ1000 commuter lacked an



»BY STEVE LITA

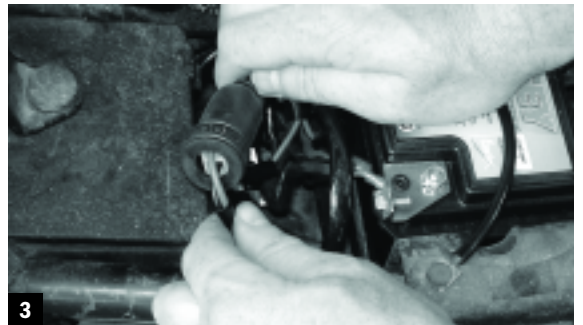
auxiliary power outlet, I was happy to volunteer for an install. After perusing Powerlet's web site, I figured that the Powerlet Sportbike rearset kit would work in several locations, and I was right. The bracket is made of anodized aluminum, and it was easy to attach to my bike at a motor-mount bolt. I even used the stock bolt. Powering the socket was a snap — just two wires to connect — and I tucked the excess wire harness neatly away behind the factory airbox. A big rubber boot covers the Powerlet socket connector to keep moisture out and help prevent corrosion.

Now I have a well-styled, easy-to-access power outlet for my heated gear — something we in New England appreciate this time of year. Powerlet also supplied me with its PAC-036 dual plug adapter in case I have to power up a portable air compressor or radar detector, or charge my cell phone. It's a simple idea taken to the extreme in a complete, high-quality do-it-yourself kit.



1

After deciding to mount the outlet on my bike's left motor-mount bolt, installation was easy.



3

The wire harness attaches to the socket pigtail, and the connection is protected in this rubber boot. The fuse holder and wire harness get secured safely out of the way.



2

Simple wiring. The red attached directly to the positive battery terminal, and the black to a chassis ground bolt.



4

With the addition of a power socket accessory, I can now charge my cell phone on long trips. **RB**