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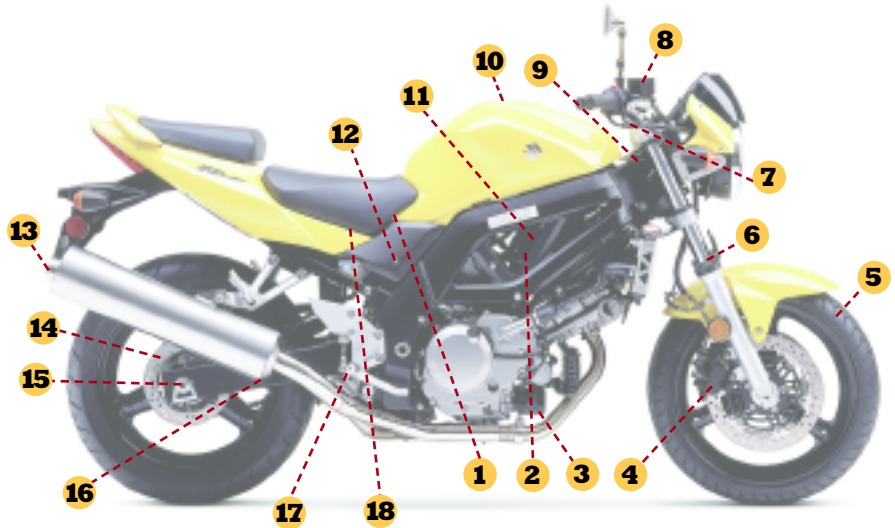
**SPRING PREP**

# Rise and Shine

**WAKING YOUR BIKE FROM ITS WINTER SLUMBER ■ BY STEVE LITA**

BET YOU CAN'T WAIT! Spring is here, and you want to get your bike out and ride. Go ahead, jump on and take off... you'll be sorry. Dirty oil, underinflated tires, and a dry chain are just a few of the problems you might be subjecting your bike to.

If you stored your motorcycle properly for the off-season, then you should have only a few things to check. But if you skimped on the winter prep, you've got at least an afternoon of work ahead of you. To simplify things, we've outlined some key steps to help you prepare for your first springtime ride.



**While you're attending to different areas of the bike, make sure you check for loose or rusty fasteners.**

- 1.** Fully charge the battery. This may take some time, so hook up the charger first and then move on to other tasks.
- 2.** Drain the old fuel from the carbs (if you forgot to do that before the winter). Hopefully, you won't catch a whiff of gas gone bad.
- 3.** Change the crankcase oil and filter. Any condensation that developed inside the engine will have corrupted the oil.
- 4.** Inspect the front brake pads and rotors. If there's any surface rust, clean the rotors with steel wool or light sandpaper.
- 5.** Inspect the tires for cracking and dry rot. Also check the tread depth and the air pressure.
- 6.** Inspect the fork tubes for signs of leaky seals.
- 7.** Lube the control cables: clutch, throttle, brake, and speedo. A cable lube tool comes in handy, and a needle oiler will also work. You could also lube the hand controls and levers.
- 8.** Check the level and quality of the front brake fluid. If it's coffee-brown, replace it.
- 9.** Lube the lock cylinders (ignition, gas cap, seat lock, helmet lock). Good ol' WD-40 and its tiny straw work well.
- 10.** Add a dash of Techron to the fuel (not the whole bottle!), to prepare for the first start-up.
- 11.** Check the spark plugs for wear and replace if necessary.
- 12.** On water-cooled bikes, check the coolant level in the remote reservoir.
- 13.** Remove any protective covers on the exhaust pipe openings. (You covered them to keep out moisture, right?)
- 14.** For the rear brakes, inspect the hydraulic fluid (if so equipped) and the thickness of the pads/shoes, and replace if necessary.
- 15.** Lube and adjust the drive system on chain-equipped bikes; check the gear oil on shaft drives.
- 16.** Some exhaust pipes on older bikes have built-in drain plugs. If that's the case with yours, remove and drain any moisture.
- 17.** Lube the centerstand and/or sidestand pivot. While you're down there, lube the footpeg pivots, too.
- 18.** Clean the battery cables and reinstall the fully charged battery. Now's a good time to check all the bulbs and make sure the brake lights, high and low beams, and signal lights work properly.
- 19.** Wash and wax. Now you're ready to hit the road. **RB**