

Breathe Easily

BY BOB FEATHER

One look at the stock air cleaner cover on the Honda VTX and you can almost hear the muffled cries from the filter element screaming, “I’m ugly and choke the combustible fuel/air mixture that makes the engine go fast!” or just “Change me, please!”

So it was almost a blessing in disguise when Dude’s Honda VTX 1800 had a little tip-over one day in a parking lot. The unsightly stock air cleaner took a good hit and required replacement. This would be a good time to remove the offending stock piece and not only add something cool to the bike, but gain a little performance on the way.

The S&S Teardrop air cleaner has been a classic fixture on V-twin motorcycles for years and has always meant performance. The S&S kit is completely plug-and-play, requiring no additional wire stripping, crimping, or complex harness connections. The stock air cleaner comes right off, and the new parts go right on. It’s so easy, a caveman — I mean an American V-twin guy — can do it.

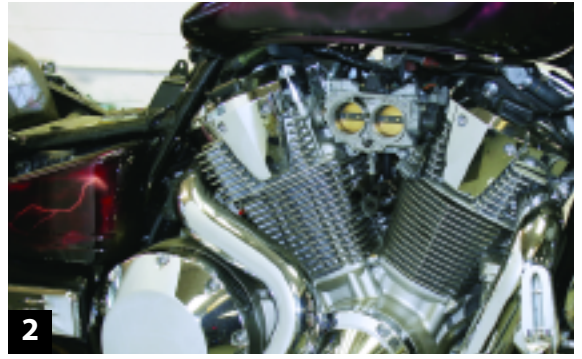
Wrench wizard Art Handleman of Valley Motorsports went about the quick work of mounting this chrome beauty in place. As you’d expect from S&S, the chrome plating on the air cleaner cover was brilliant and perfect. And the cast and machined parts are all finished cleanly and smoothly, fitting on the bike as if they were made by Honda itself. The instructions are clear and concise, all the necessary parts and hardware are provided, right down to the Loctite, and the job is complete in one hour.

Once finished, Dude took a ride around the block to give us the lowdown. Smiles abounded upon his return, as he reported improved throttle response and a nice throaty sound coming from the air cleaner itself. He was one happy camper! **RB**



1

Yes, it looks just like the ones Harleys wear. But it’s made for a metric.



2

With the fuel tank slightly raised and the stock air cleaner removed, we’re ready to begin our installation.



3

Mount the air intake temp sensor and stand-offs on the aluminum backplate. The shortest of the three stand-offs goes toward the rear of the plate.



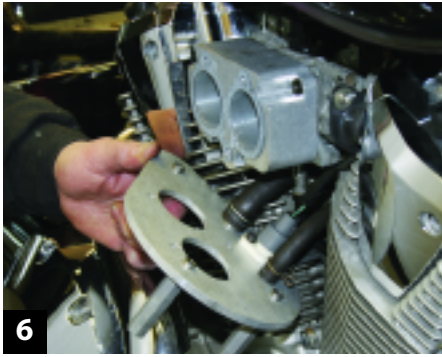
4

Remove the vacuum hose and put the provided rubber cap over the fitting.



5

Attach the rubber O-ring to the adapter backplate, and mount to the throttle body reusing the four stock screws you removed earlier during disassembly, plus a little dab of Loctite (provided).



6

Position the new gasket on the adapter with a dab of gasket sealer. Then attach the intake air hose, air temp sensor, and breather hose to the backplate.



7

Position the backplate over the adapter, and insert the three provided screws.



8

Put the air filter element in place and install the teardrop cover.



9

Step back and admire your new air cleaner. RB

hard data

S&S
Teardrop Air Cleaner Kit, # 106-3244, \$285
S&S Cycle Inc.
866/244-2673
www.SSCycle.com

VALLEY MOTORSPORTS
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