

Seat Cover Installation Instructions

Congratulations on purchasing your new Saddle Skin replacement seat cover. It will renew your seat and enhance the appearance and comfort of your motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle. There are two methods of installing covers; permanently, duplicating the original factory method; or with a drawstring, which is suitable for some seats. The permanent attachment method is recommended for superior fit and appearance, however some covers are supplied with an optional drawstring which can be used when speed and ease of installation is a primary concern. Selecting permanent installation, even if a drawstring is provided, will provide a tighter, wrinkle free fit.

OVERVIEW

This new cover has a foam liner that will cover and repair minor deterioration of the original foam cushion. If there is major deterioration, the cushion should be repaired before installing the cover. (See instruction number 4.) Make sure that the cover you have selected is correct for your seat because many older seats have been modified, altered or changed over the years; if the new cover is altered in any way, it can't be returned. The new cover will need to stretch slightly to achieve a tight fit and correct installation.

DRAWSTRING ATTACHMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Remove the seat assembly, noting how to reinstall.

Place the new cover over the seat that you have removed. If there are straps or thick trim pieces they will have to be removed before the cover is installed, then reinstalled after the cover is in place. This will require the new cover to be cut or pierced where these parts attached.

Pull the drawstring tight pulling the side of the vinyl over the bottom edge of the seat until as many wrinkles as possible are removed. Do not pull with excessive force as a tear could result. The drawstring method may not result in all wrinkles being removed. To accomplish this the permanent procedure following may be required. Permanent installation may also be needed for seats with uneven edges, which prevent pulling the cover tight to the bottom edge.

Reinstall the seat on the motorcycle. Check the drawstring and drawstring sleeve to be sure that there is no interference with the hinges, lock or seat operation.

PERMANENT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remove the seat assembly from the motorcycle, noting how to reinstall the seat.
2. Remove the original cover from the seat base plate or pan. The cover is usually secured to the pan by one of four methods.
 - a. Steel hooks, figure 1A – with a screwdriver, open each hook to an angle of about 45° degrees to the pan. When all have been opened, pulling toward each hook point can easily pull the cover free.
 - b. Staples, figure 1B – with a screwdriver and pliers first pry up each staple as shown, then remove with the pliers.
 - c. Speed nuts, figure 1C – Remove speed nuts with a screwdriver as shown.
 - d. Rivets – Riveted covers are removed by first drilling thru the center of each rivet with a small drill and then pushing each rivet out.

3. Carefully remove the cover from the foam cushion. On some motorcycle seats the cover is glued to the foam; in these instances slowly separate small sections of the cover from the foam to prevent damage to the foam. If the cover is not glued it will removed quickly and easily.
4. The foam under layer of your new cover will hide minor damage of your foam cushion. (i.e. holes or abrasions less than ½") If more major damage is encountered it must be repaired before the new cover is installed.
 - a. Major repair requires the damaged foam to be cut out and replaced by new foam. The new foam should be firm; similar to the original seat foam. New foam is available at most upholstery shops or a seat repair kit, Saddlemen part number F699, with instructions, is available where you bought this cover.
 - b. The new foam must be cut to the shape of the foam removed and then glued in place, with contact cement; 3M Super 77 Spray Adhesive, or equivalent, is recommended. Using a sawing motion with a knife, electric carving knife, razor blade or hacksaw blade can easily shape the foam. Carve the foam first to fit the damaged area then glue it into position. Finally carve the surface to match the seat contours. Remember the foam inner liner will hide minor imperfections.



Fig. 1A

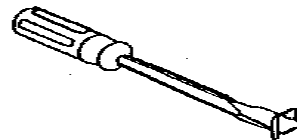


Fig. 1B

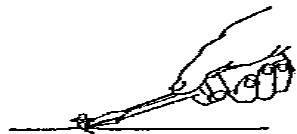
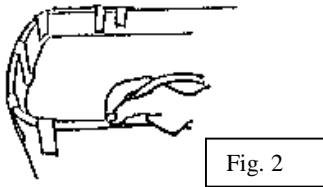


Fig. 1C

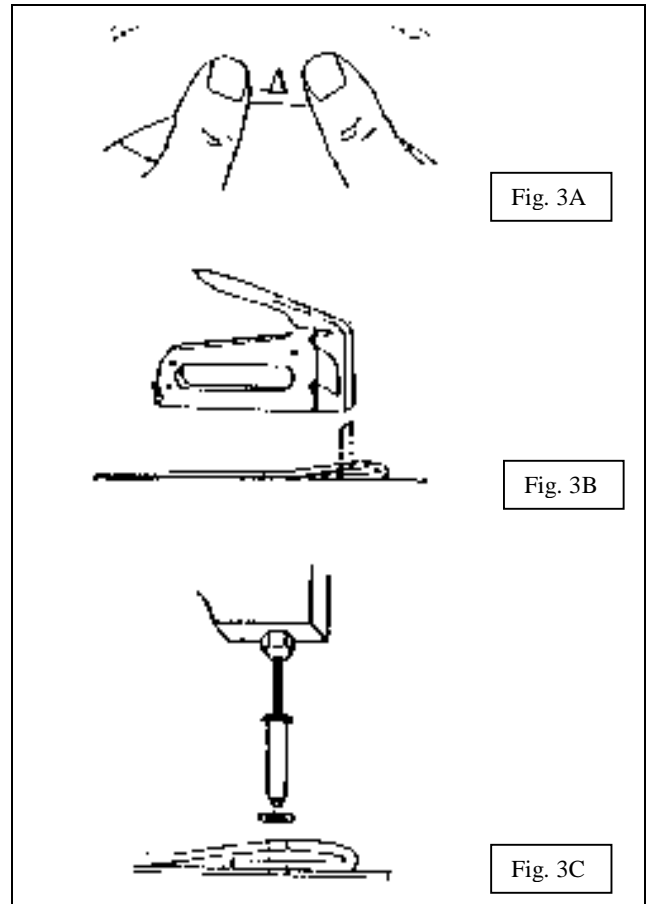
5. If edging is used on your seat base, it may assist the new installation if the edging is secured in place by adding some short pieces of tape as shown in figure 2. Please note that this edging is not used on many original seats.

6. It is recommended that the cover be placed in the sun or warmed with a heat gun to make the cover stretch more easily. This makes the process of removing wrinkles easier to accomplish.



7. To facilitate proper alignment during installation we recommend that the new cover be lightly glued into its correct position. **IMPORTANT!!** To assist in properly positioning the new cover there are several v-shaped notches in the exact center of the cover; these are located in the seams on the underside of the cover. Mark the center of the seat along its length and align the center notches on the cover with these marks. After a trial fitting to determine the proper cover position, add glue and reinstall. **CAUTION:** Glue is needed only on the top portion of the seat, not on the sides. Use glue sparingly. Follow the glue manufacturers' instructions and warnings. 3M Super 77 Spray Adhesive or equivalent is recommended. (Available at most hardware stores.)

8. Attach the cover first at the front and rear of the seat, being careful to center the assembly on the marks you made on the foam. As you attach the cover, apply light pressure while pulling the cover to keep the cover smooth. The cover material is made to stretch slightly and is made small so that all wrinkles will be removed as the cover is stretched into place. The cover is secured in the reverse procedure of step 2; steel hooks, figure 3A; staples, figure 3B; rivets, figure 3C; or speed nuts over a post. Stapled covers can be stapled with any industrial grade stapler using 3/16" or shorter staples. Both rivet guns and industrial staplers are available at tool rental shops if needed.
9. After the front and rear is attached, secure the center positions of each side. Again, pull slightly to smooth the cover and remove the wrinkles.



It may be necessary to remove and reattach the cover at the sides a couple of times to get the proper position to remove all wrinkles. Use heat as necessary.

10. Work around the entire seat and secure the cover completely. Be sure to bend steel hooks back into place, if used.
11. Remember that slightly heating the cover will make the installation process easier to accomplish.
12. Reinstall the seat assembly to the motorcycle.

TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Regardless of the original method of securing the cover to the pan, you may decide to install the new cover using rivets. This may be advisable if rusted hooks or deformed speed nuts are encountered. One-eighth inch (1/8") rivets are recommended. It will be necessary to drill holes in the pan starting at the center of the pan nose, using a #29 or .125 drill, then adding holes approximately every two inches (2"). Additional holes can be added as necessary to smooth wrinkles as the cover is being installed. Be sure to pull the cover up out of the way before you start drilling.

If staples are used, they should not exceed 3/16" inches in length.

If the original metal barbs are used, install the complete cover before tapping them back into place.

It is important to watch the sides of the seat as the cover is installed so that you do not pull wrinkles into the cover during assembly. A little slack or a little tug fore and aft will remove most wrinkles. It may also be necessary to slightly change the cover attachment points to achieve the best wrinkle free fit.