

SERVICE

SHOP DOPE

No. 357

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SPARK COIL, MODEL 165

Some cases of ignition irregularity and failure have been reported on the ST model due to electrical leakage between the high tension socket of the coil and the terminal plate screws and wires. In some cases a carbonized track can be seen on the coil tower surface where the spark has been shorting over to the screws in the terminal plate. This occurs for various reasons, all caused by low insulation efficiency. If the insulating parts of the ignition system are kept in good condition, most cases of ignition failure can be prevented.

The following preventive maintenance is recommended:

1. Keep ignition coil and wires clean. Remove spark plug wire from end of coil and clean off dirt and grease from coil tower, terminal plate and all wires. Use clean naphtha, white gasoline or carbon tetrachloride--not ordinary gasoline or cleaning tank solution since they contain lead, grease or other impurities which will harm the insulation. Apply with a brush and dry with an air hose or clean rag before operating the motorcycle. This should be done every 2000 miles or at least twice a year, oftener when there is evidence of dirt accumulation on the coil and wires. (If carbonized tracks can be seen on the coil tower, scrape them out clean and spray or brush on an insulating and waterproofing lacquer.)
2. Be sure that low tension wires are fastened to plate terminal screws, so that the wires lead away and do not come near to the coil tower and spark plug wire.
3. Replace rubber nipple over the spark plug wire and coil tower with a new one. This nipple becomes scuffed and deteriorated in time, and should be replaced. It is advisable to do this periodically even though there is no ignition trouble present.
4. Install spark plug wire far down into the coil socket, so that a good firm contact is obtained. Be sure to pull the rubber nipple down over the coil tower so that it stretches on tightly.
5. Clean and regap spark plugs.
6. Standard wiring should be used at all times. Such things as spark intensifiers can cause excessive electrical stress and promote ignition coil breakdown.