

Corbin low profile leather saddle for 2005-2013 BMW R1200RT

It feels as good as it looks

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LET'S DISPENSE WITH THE OBVIOUS before we delve into the details. The Corbin Low Profile Leather Saddle is flat out the most gorgeous off-the-shelf seat money can buy for your Hexhead RT. The exterior contour fits against the tank and tail seamlessly for a truly integrated appearance, while the dish shaped seating area perfectly complements the sleek silhouette of the bike itself. Tasteful details abound, such as the small BMW M-sport tri-color stripes stitched next to the white Corbin logo. There is no mistaking the luxury of the genuine leather seating surface, either.

The seat pictured is the most basic model, a natural grain black leather variant. Incredibly, the rider can choose from over 50 different color and texture combinations for each of the seating areas, side panels, welts, and trim panels, allowing for a truly customized package. The sheer variety of choices sets this seat apart from other aftermarket choices.

The Corbin feels as good as it looks thanks to the firm Comfort Cell foam and ergonomically sculpted shape. It has a bucket seat type feel that hugs the rider from both sides inward, spreading weight over a larger surface area than the stock seat for improved long term comfort. Seating area for the rider is a generous 15 inches wide and 13 inches long while the passenger area is only slightly smaller at 11.5 inches wide and 10 inches long. The low profile

seat results in a seat height of only 30.4 inches compared to 32.5 inches for the stock BMW seat. Testing the seat over months of commuting and a few long days (800+ miles) confirmed that it is a top notch saddle with no hot spots or sagging, even after double digit hours on the road.



The Corbin Low Seat with backrest for the R1200RT is the ultimate in comfort and quality.

However, it's not all roses. First, unlike the two-piece stock setup, the Corbin saddle is a one-piece build with its own rigid Fibertech base pan. Aftermarket seats that use the stock base pans ensure quick and painless installation, but the Corbin can be a bit finicky to latch into place. The cylindrical height adjustment bracket assembly used on the stock pan has to be removed to install the lower Corbin. In addition, we had to shim the rear locking pin with a few

stainless washers to get the seat to lock into position – surely a result of a new pan that wasn't broken in. All of this was less than 10 minutes of effort, but it should be noted that it doesn't necessarily just drop into place like the stock seat.

For owners with stock heated seats, the heating elements on the Corbin do not plug into the stock heating element power plugs. A new harness is supplied which must be connected to power and then attached to the Corbin seat. The three position heated seat control switch on the throttle side switch array is no longer active and heat for the Corbin is controlled via a switch directly on the left side of the saddle. Of course, if you did not order your RT with factory heat, this is not an issue and you now have an option for heated seats.

Overall, these are minor complaints. The Corbin Low Profile Seat exceeds expectations in every functional requirement of a good quality aftermarket saddle - all day comfort, excellent build quality, optional heat, and optional backrests for a tailored fit. Factor in the top shelf aesthetics, the sumptuous feel of genuine leather, the myriad of color and texture choices, and this seat should be a leading contender on any saddle upgrade short list. The Corbin R1200RT Seat retails for \$543 without heat, or \$699 with heat. The optional Ovalbac leather backrest adds \$218. Order online at corbin.com. ☺