

Jim Bade's BMW R1200 Series Maintenance DVD

AFTER I BECAME a BMW owner, I was surprised to learn just how pervasive the do it yourself mindset is within the BMW community. BMW owners are truly a hands-on bunch. Its enthusiasts have compiled everything from bullet points of wisdom to detailed service manuals, all of which are free for download online.

The BMW DIY concept has now been brought to the next level by Jim Bade, an avid aficionado. He self-produced and distributed a full-length instructional DVD titled *R1200 Series Maintenance* that covers all of the common maintenance tasks a late-model BMW owner might run into, including these tasks on the Hexhead GS:

1. GS gastank removal and reinstallation
2. Oil and filter change
3. Transmission fluid replacement
4. Final drive fluid change
5. Valve adjustment
6. Air filter change
7. Brake fluid bleeding
8. Alternator belt replacement
9. Reading fault codes
10. Throttle body synchronization
11. Miscellaneous items, such as side-stand lubrication.

Each job is assigned its own numbered chapter, so finding the specific information needed is easy. Although the DVD focuses on Hexheads, the techniques for

the most part apply to previous generation Oilhead bikes as well.

While not a highly polished production, Bade's DVD presents some valuable information clearly and concisely. The most illuminating chapters are those on valve adjustment and throttle body synchronization, the two most daunting tasks for a novice BMW wrencher. Watching Bade finessing the valvetrain into adjustment and setting the synch adds a whole new level of understanding to DIY service.

Many BMW owners who purchased the DVD report being very satisfied. They have studied the factory manual, read the online supplementary guides, watched Bade's DVD, and said that the visual presentation helped them tackle routine services with much less difficulty than initially anticipated.

The DVD's benefits are threefold: First, a deeper understanding of one's motorcycle only strengthens the relationship between rider and machine. Second, it bolsters confidence that the rider can handle some mechanical issues should they arise roadside. Finally, all of the tasks covered in this DVD (called a "major" service in BMW lingo) cost well over \$400 in labor during each dealer visit.

The DVD is \$27 including shipping within the US, so the savings aren't diffi-



cult to compute, especially for those like myself, who require multiple major services every riding season. While not an outright substitute for the usual mainstays of vehicle upkeep, like the factory manual, Jim Bade's *BMW R1200 Series Maintenance DVD* is an excellent supplement, imparting the knowledge of an experienced hand and demystifying routine service duties.

—Moshe K. Levy

For more information, contact Jim Bade at jimvonbaden@msn.com. The DVD can be purchased via Paypal or checks in US dollars can be sent to: 13708 Marbury Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22191.