



# JVB Productions BMW R 1200 wethead service video

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**AS THE PROUD OWNER OF A 2015** R 1200 RT-LC, I couldn't help thinking about how much things have changed since I bought my first Oilhead RT 10 years ago. This new generation of liquid-cooled R 1200s (GS, GSA, RT, R, and RS) are in some ways more complicated than their air/oil-cooled predecessors, and service costs have risen over time as well. Hourly labor rates at our local NJ/NY BMW dealerships now hover at \$110, meaning "minor" 6K services can lighten your wallet by \$355, while "major" 12k services can cost \$550 and often more.

Despite these changes, the most imperative constant remains: For those who want to do it themselves, BMW R-Series motorcycles aren't very difficult to service. The potential financial savings are obviously substantial, especially if one rides enough to require multiple services per season. More importantly, the in-depth bonding and technical confidence that come only with wrenching on your own bike is priceless. To this end, Jim Bade has produced a full length instructional video which covers all routine maintenance of the new "Wethead" R-bikes.

The new DVD, titled "R1200 (LC) Wethead Service," shows Mr. Bade

performing all of the following tasks on a new liquid-cooled GS:

- 1) Oil change
- 2) Valve check and adjust
- 3) Final drive oil change
- 4) Air Filter change
- 5) Brake fluid flush
- 6) Diagnostics using GS911 Tool



- 7) Miscellaneous checks (including hydraulic clutch fluid check, sidestand functionality, coolant level check, bolt torque check, and spoke check)
- 8) Brake pad service

Finding the specific information a viewer needs is simple, since each task is assigned its own "chapter" on the DVD. Production values are very good, with excellent lighting, sharp graphics, and reasonable sound quality. BMW riders used to this type of

customary service on their older air-cooled Hexhead or Oilhead twins will find themselves on familiar ground with the new Wetheads, and Jim makes it very easy to see exactly what needs to be done, step by careful step. By reviewing the tasks methodically, one gains the benefits of an experienced hand and can avoid making the clumsy mistakes of a beginner. Indeed, there are some physical techniques as simple as using a feeler gauge that no amount of reading can teach, and watching the video clarifies such issues in detail. The viewer is occasionally directed online to <http://www.jvbproductions.com/> where supplemental pictures, updates, tool lists, bolt torque values, and more can be easily downloaded to help with the process.

One can argue that today's DIYers are savvier than ever, thanks to the wealth of information freely available online. Between this video and the additional supplemental material catalogued on the JVB website, it is hard to imagine that any rider with even a minimal level of experience, patience, and basic hand tools would have difficulty tackling the routine maintenance of a new BMW Wethead flat-twin. Own an older R 11xx or R 1200 Oilhead, Hexhead, or Camhead type R-bike? Bade has maintenance DVDs for them as well, all recommended for the same reasons.

The Wethead DVD is available for \$30 plus shipping. For more information, visit [www.jvbproductions.com](http://www.jvbproductions.com). 