

BMW R1200RT Fender Extension Mini Comparison: MachineArt Moto's Avant-RT vs. Pyramid Parts Fenda Extenda

IN THE BMW RT community, fender extenders are considered mandatory for any rider who cares about appearances. BMW's stock RT front fenders are inexplicably stunted, and without additional coverage, riding over freshly paved roads or hot tar snakes can result in hours of wearisome scrubbing to remove blemishes from the exhaust system's header pipes and front engine case, which are both directly behind the front wheel. An extension means more time riding, and less time cleaning. Until recently, the only real choice on the market was Pyramid Parts' "Fenda Extenda," but now MachineArt Moto has introduced its new "Avant-RT" extensions specifically for late-model (2005+) Hexhead BMW RT models. We tested both during the summer months while high-mileage commuting to determine which extender RT riders should consider.

Installation

To install the Fenda Extenda, one must first position its mounting lip beneath the stock front fender, and center it in place using the included double-sided tape. The next step is to drill pilot holes through the stock fender and the centered Fenda Extenda for the four included chrome phillips-head screws. Once the holes are drilled, the self-tapping screws are installed through the stock fender and then through the Fenda Extenda, holding things in place. By contrast, installation of the Avant is a far less invasive affair, and can be accomplished in under one minute using only a T25 torx screwdriver: Just slip the Avant over the stock front fender and snug down its three T25 black stainless steel torx bolts. Each of these torx bolt threads into a steel compression clamp via an integrated nylock-type nut. These three clamps bite into the underside of the stock fender at the right, left and bottom sides to triangulate the assembly and prevent any slippage as shown. Obviously, the Avant's advantage in ease of installation is enormous, and since no holes are drilled, riders can transfer the unit from bike to bike within minutes, leaving no marks behind—especially useful for riders who trade in an older Hexhead for a newer one. Riders contemplating an Avant will be happy to note that any previous holes in the stock front fender used to mount a "Fenda Extenda" are completely covered over once it's installed, an added bonus. ADVANTAGE: AVANT-RT.

Styling & Functionality

The Fenda Extenda has been around for many years, and is something of a common sight on RTs as a result. Although the Extenda is functional, aesthetically it looks more at



home on the curvier, pre-2005 Oil-head R1100/1150 RTs. Likewise, its smooth and shiny finish does not exactly match the BMW's front fender, nor does its chrome phillips-head screw hardware match other surrounding hardware on the motorcycle. By contrast, the Avant-RT clearly looks more at home on the Hexhead RTs. Its angular styling and black stainless torx hardware exactly match the overall design of the motorcycle. Also, its slightly grainy texture matches the matte sandblast finish of the stock fender.

Functionally, both designs add ~5.5" of length to the stock fender. But the Avant's side "wings" make it approximately 1.5"-wider than the Fenda Extenda, at ~7.25" vs. 5.75" at the widest points, for less debris on the headers and front engine case. Over several thousand miles on the same commuting loop, an inspection of the underside of the extenders revealed the Avant's "wings" had deflected a fair amount of tar. Without them, that tar would have wound up on the header pipes and front engine case. As for durability, both the polystyrene/polyethylene Fenda Extenda and injection-molded polypropylene Avant should easily last the life of the motorcycle. Neither material cracks when flexed, and neither became loose during our comprehensive testing regimen. ADVANTAGE: AVANT-RT.

Value

The Fenda Extenda for R1200RT has an MSRP of \$35.95, while the Avant-RT has an MSRP of \$79. Priced at more than twice the cost of the Fenda Extenda, we can't say that the Avant-RT wins for value. ADVANTAGE: FENDA EXTENDA

Overall

All riders can name components which are usually not thought of as sexy, but which, nonetheless, perform essential tasks thanklessly. Fender extenders are clearly one of those components. The Machineart Moto Avant-RT has clearly raised the bar in terms of installation, styling and functionality and may even be regarded as sexy. WINNER: AVANT-RT

—Moshe Levy

Machineart Moto—Avant-RT

17 Slacktown Road, Ste.3; Frenchtown, NJ 08825; 908-996-7210;
http://machineartmoto.com/shopsite_sc/index.html

Pyramid Parts—Fenda Extenda

9857 Southwest Pueblo Terrace; Palm City, FL 34990; 772-597-3207;
<http://shop.fendaextenda.com/main.sc>