

PRODUCT REVIEW

Dominator HP1 Slip-On Exhaust for 2005-2009 BMW R 1200 RT

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The colossal exhaust on BMW's "Hexhead" R 1200 RT overpowers the bike's left side profile, and weighs a portly 12.5 pounds to boot. As a result, some riders have taken to replacing the stocker with lithe aftermarket models like this Dominator HP1, which maintains legal sound levels so long as the removable "dB killer" insert is left in place. (A homologated version of this same exhaust, with the dB killer welded in place instead of removable, is also available and EU-legal.)

The HP1 is certainly an attractive pipe, with a perfectly finished stainless-steel exterior, punctuated by a

carbon fiber end cap. A stainless steel link pipe is also included, as well as three beefy stainless clamps to secure the pipe in place. Installation is very simple with basic hand tools. Once the stock exhaust is removed, the link pipe is attached to the stock header pipe with the included clamp. From there, the HP1 is hung on the frame using the stock exhaust mounting location. All necessary hardware is included (and you can reuse the stock hardware if preferred.) The final appearance is sleek and appealing, far more so than the bulbous stock boat anchor.

Out on the road, the Dominator's

styling drew compliments from my riding compatriots, although there is no seat of the pants difference in power or delivery. Likewise, it is unlikely that many RT riders will feel the 6.5 pound weight savings after installing the Dominator. As usual for BMW boxers, the main differences between stock and aftermarket exhausts boil down to the very subjective fields of styling and sound quality.

Here, the Dominator HP1 delivers an excellent performance, keeping overall volume to stock levels, while amplifying the bass-rich lower registers of the boxer's song. To measure decibel readings, we utilized an AudioControl DMRTA calibrated decibel meter, placing the measurement device approximately 20 inches from the exhaust at a 45 degree angle per the SAE J2825 standard. At idle, the HP1 was right at 92 dBA, which is the SAE J2825 legal limit. At 2,500 RPM it registered 94 dBA, and at 4,500 RPM it registered 96 dBA. So this pipe isn't loud – it just offers a deeper voice throughout the rev range, while also incorporating the occasional crackling burble upon downshifts. Even at extra-legal speeds, it's never obnoxious, and totally within character for the RT's "Gentleman's Express" personality. We have included extensive audio clips of the HP1 pipe here at youtube.com/c/motomouthmoshe at stepped RPM levels, so that you can judge the tone, pitch, and timbre for yourself.

The Dominator HP1 tested herein is made in Poland and carries an MSRP of \$261.37 plus shipping. The homologated version's MSRP is \$300.49 plus shipping. Both screaming bargains in the world of aftermarket exhausts for BMW RTs.

Dominator Exhaust
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Product provided by vendor for review

