PRODUCT REVIEW

Wunderlich Pannier Top Racks for BMW R 1200 / 1250 RT and K 1600 GT / GTL

Moshe K. Levy · RA 43605 · D MotoMouthMoshe

or serious campers or those who like to pack the kitchen sink on long hauls, behold the Wunderlich pannier racks! These welded steel racks, each rated for 3 kg. / 6.6 lbs., allow riders of late model RTs and K 1600 models to utilize formerly dead space for additional storage. Available in black or chrome finishes, they attach to the BMW system cases using the included hardware, and do not interfere with case operation or removal / reinstallation in any way.

The installation instructions are covered in an 4:39 minute online video on Wunderlich's website and YouTube. There's no drilling required, but you will need T25 and T30 Torx drivers, as well as 8 and 10 mm wrenches. A magnet and some small needle nose pliers would be very helpful for this job as well.

The overall assembly consists of the main rack which sits atop the system case, and a support bracket that attaches underneath the case to the lid hinge assembly. As the video depicts, the installation process is essentially placing the rack components on the case and replacing the stock T25 hardware with Wunderlich's. The magnet and needle nose come in handy when working on the lid hinge assembly, where a T25 Torx bolt screws into a tiny 8 mm nut. Placing the magnet on the nut before final unscrewing prevents it from falling into a recess in the system case. Conversely, use the needle nose to hold that same nut in place upon reassembly - start the threads by hand, and then switch over to the 8 mm wrench once the bolt and nut catch. I left it all snug and then finished tightening it with my torque wrench as



called for in the video, and everything aligned perfectly. If you watch the video beforehand and work methodically using it as a reference, you can finish the job in about an hour. (Don't even bother with the written instructions.)

Once installed, the rider can now utilize one of those cavernous 75+ liter U-shaped dry bags that the ADV riders use without worrying about scuffing up the shiny system cases. (If you haven't seen them yet, these bags basically take up the entire passenger seat, and then loop around the back of the motorcycle, resting on the cases for support.) In addition, the racks are ideal for mounting camping items such as tents, sleeping mats, cots, chairs, and other related gear - necessary if you ride two-up and your better half has commandeered all the room inside the cases! (Pro tip: buy some Rok straps. They're ideal for this job.) A final but noteworthy benefit - no more accidentally kicking the top of the case and marring the paint when climbing on or off the motorcycle. Now it's all protected!

The Wunderlich Pannier Top Racks are sold individually, right side and left side, at an MSRP of \$319.95 each. Not cheap, but they're German made and a pretty ingenious solution to a very specific application. They fit 2012+ K 1600 GT and K 1600 GTL models, as well as 2014-2018 R 1200 RT and 2019+ R 1250 RT models.

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