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# IH: Engine Control

## Kick Starter

### Sub-Documents

- \* . . . [1968 Kicker Cover Roll Pin Repair](#)
- \* . . . [1977-1978 Kicker Cover Damage Repair](#)

- Starting July 1, 1973, there was a new design with a kick starter ratchet gear, bushing and spacer. The new 'pressed in' bushing has a Teflon coated lead bearing surface on a steel ball shell. The gear has a groove for the starter gear spring and the spacer length (and diameter) were increased to fit the new gear. <sup>1)</sup>
- The new ratchet gear assembly w / Teflon bushing was recommended for part replacement on all models built previous to July 1, 1973. However, these parts will not interchange with the old part numbers individually so the full replacement kit is recommended as an assembly. <sup>2)</sup>

<b>Starter Gear Ratchet Kits</b> <sup>3) 4)</sup>	
33400-74 - 1970 and Earlier	Starter Ratchet Gear w/ Teflon bushing (33432-73) and Clutch Sprocket Spacer (37754-74) Also includes a replacement ratchet (33379-57) with a larger I.D. for the new larger gear bushing and 12 rivets, 5/32"x13/16"x9/32" Dia. (8215)
33460-74 - 1971 & later	Starter Ratchet Gear Assy. w / Teflon bushing (33432-73) and Clutch Sprocket Spacer (37754-74)

<b>Starter Ratchet Gear and Bushing</b>			
1957 - Early 1973	XL/XLH/XLCH	Starter Ratchet Gear Assy. w / bronze bushing <sup>5)</sup>	33432-57
1957 - Early 1973	XL/XLH/XLCH	Starter Ratchet Gear (bronze) Bushing (only) <sup>6)</sup>	33442-57
Late 1973 and later	XLCH	Starter Ratchet Gear Assy. w / Teflon coated steel bushing <sup>7)</sup>	33432-73
Late 1973 and later	XLCH	Starter Ratchet Gear (Teflon coated steel) Bushing (only) <sup>8)</sup>	33442-73

<b>Clutch Sprocket Spacer</b>		Length	Outside Diameter
	37755-57 <sup>9)</sup>	1.047"	1.3585"
	37756-57 <sup>10)</sup>	1.025"	1.3585"
	37755-71 <sup>11)</sup>	1.143"	1.3585"
	37756-71 <sup>12)</sup>	1.121"	1.3585"
1957-1970	XL/XLH/XLCH 37754-74 <sup>13)</sup>	1.047"	1.3715"
1967 and later	XLH 37753-76 <sup>14)</sup>		
1971 and later	XLCH 37755-73 <sup>15)</sup>	1.153"	1.3715"

You can put a kick starter on a E1980 Sportster if it has a late production 79 motor. <sup>16)</sup>

A kick start kit was available for parts order in the -80 parts catalog for 79-80 model XLs. <sup>17)</sup>

The same kit was available in the -81 parts book but it was only sold for 1979 models. <sup>18)</sup>

It's not clear if the same E79 parts were used in the kit or how far back it would retro but the 79-up parts books do not cover previous models.

Some early production 1980 models had the same plug hole and bushing for the kicker shaft as the 79 models had. <sup>19)</sup>

We have confirmation of an early 1980 case with crankcase# (780 347 084), machined December 13, 1979 does have the hole for the kicker. <sup>20)</sup>

Some 1980 models came with a 1979 engine with 1980 numbers that match the H9 frame - (1979). So it all depends on if you have a left over production 1979 engine installed.

<b>Kick Start Kit</b>	
1979-E1980	33058-79

1968-E1980 kicker hole plug.



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1) , 2) , 3) , 5) , 6) , 7) , 8) , 9) , 10) , 11) , 12)

HD Service Bulletin #618C as updated December 17, 1974

4) , 13) , 14) , 15)

1954-1976 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 41

16) , 19)

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17)

1979-1980 HD Parts Catalog (99451-80) pg 29

18)

1979-1981 HD Parts Catalog (99451-81) pg 29

20)

OutlawTexan67 of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-s>

[pecific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/28444-kicker-for-1980-ironhead/page3?t=47136&page=3](https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/28444-kicker-for-1980-ironhead/page3?t=47136&page=3)

21)

photos by 74\_XLH\_WINCHESTER\_VA of the XLFORUM, combined by Hippysmack,  
<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/90145-kicker-install-on-a-74-xlh?threadid=727978>

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