IGNITION COILS / 1980 MODELS

A quantity of 1980 ignition coils, Part No. 31609-80, used on all 1980 models, have recently failed at low mileage. The problem has been traced to an internal breakdown of the windings within the coil. This failure could lead to poor vehicle performance and, in some cases, decreased spark plug life caused by fouling.

Whenever you inspect an ignition related failure on a 1980 vehicle, follow the diagnostic procedure outlined in the appropriate Service Manual. In that procedure, include an inspection of the ignition coil. Check the primary and secondary resistance of ignition coil with an ohmmeter. Resistances should be within the following limits:

- PRIMARY: 3.3 to 3.7 Ohms
- SECONDARY: 16500 to 19500 Ohms

If a coil tester is not available, temporarily substitute a new ignition coil by attaching it at any convenient point near the old coil (coil will function without being securely grounded).

NOTE

Parts and Accessories stock of ignition coil 31609-80 dated 3-80 or later has been thoroughly tested and proved good. Earlier packaging dates must be considered suspect and tested before use.

Transfer terminal wires to new coil according to the appropriate wiring diagram for the model.

CAUTION

Connect ignition coil wires as shown in wiring diagrams. Reversing polarity to the ignition control module will permanently damage the control module.

Attach spark plug cables to new coil and plugs. If ignition trouble is eliminated by the temporary installation of a new coil, replace the old coil. Carefully inspect the spark plug cables and insulation. The insulation on cables may be cracked or otherwise damaged allowing high tension current to short the metal parts. Replace the cable if necessary.

The ignition coil cannot be taken apart or repaired. If the ignition coil is proved defective, it must be replaced.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR CO., INC.