ROCKER BOX GASKET ADHESIVE

The purpose of this Service Bulletin is to alert dealers to a condition that affects gasket installation on a very few late 1989 lower rocker boxes.

In late 1989 some lower rocker boxes were made that do not have a full inner lip to retain the rocker box gaskets. There are very few of them in the field but if you find an engine with them, they have to be handled differently than other rocker boxes.

Because there is either no inner lip or a partial inner lip to retain the gasket between the lower rocker box and spacer, you must use an adhesive to hold the gasket in place during assembly and to seal the rocker boxes.

The only commercially available adhesive suitable for this use is 3M #847. This adhesive is both heat and oil resistant and is compatible with gaskets made of silicon. If you have difficulty finding this adhesive, contact the Harley-Davidson Service Department.

See Figure 1. If you have a late 1989 engine that leaks oil between the lower rocker box and spacer sections, check to see if the lower rocker box has a full or partial inner lip. Even a partial lip could allow the gasket to shift during operation, causing leaks.

If you use the new silicon type gaskets on earlier chrome rocker boxes that do not have the textured surface on the spacer sections (early 1989 and earlier), it will also be necessary to use 3M #847 on top of the lower rocker box to spacer gasket to prevent the spacer shifting.

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Figure 1. Late 1989 Lower Rocker Box Comparison

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