SPOKE CHECKING AND TIGHTENING PROCEDURE

Purpose
To inform service personnel of the proper method to check spokes at the service intervals or any time spokes are checked for tightness.

Motorcycles Affected
All model years with spoke wheels.

Required Dealer Action

Identify Wheel Spoke Groups

NOTE
Spokes are grouped in sets of four.

1. See Figure 1. Starting at the valve stem, identify the first group of four spokes (1-4).
2. Using a different color for each spoke in the group, draw an alignment mark across the spoke nipple and onto the rim.
3. Continue around the wheel marking the rest of the spokes the same as they were marked in the previous step.

Wheel Spoke Adjustment

NOTES
Do not tighten spoke more than 1/4 turn past alignment mark. If more tension is needed, label spoke and check after completing rest of wheel.

Do not use the torque spoke wrench to loosen spokes. Use SPOKE NIPPLE WRENCH (Part No. HD-94681-80) to loosen spokes.

1. See Figure 1. Starting with the first group of spokes, loosen spoke (1) using SPOKE NIPPLE WRENCH (Part No. HD-94681-80) 1/4 turn.
2. Using SPOKE TORQUE WRENCH (Part No. HD-48985) tighten spoke (1) to 55 in-lbs (6.2 Nm).
   ● While tightening, if the torque wrench clicks before the alignment marks align, continue to turn the spoke nipple until the marks align.
   ● If the alignment marks align and the torque spec has not been reached, continue to tighten the spoke nipple until the correct torque is achieved, but do not turn spoke nipple more than 1/4 turn past alignment mark.
3. Repeat previous two steps for spoke (4) in the same group.
4. Continue around the wheel checking spokes 1 and 4 until all groups are done.
5. Repeat procedure for spokes (2, 3) in each group.
6. True the wheel. See the service manual for procedure.
7. Clean alignment marks off wheel.

Figure 1. Tightening Laced Wheels (Typical)