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IH: Suspension

Rear Shocks & Springs

1957-1985 Shocks / Springs

Complete Rear Shock and Spring Assemblies ^{1) 2) 3) 4)}				
Year	Model	Left	Right	Standard/ Option
KH	1956	54500-56	54501-56	Standard
		54500-56A	54501-56A	Upgrade
XL 883	1957-1959	54500-56	54501-56	Standard
		54500-56A	54501-56A	Upgrade
		54503-58	54504-58	Option for extra 1" ground clearance
XLC 883	1958	54503-58	54504-58	Standard
XLH 883	1958-1959	54500-56	54501-56	Standard
	1958-1966	54500-56A	54501-56A	Upgrade
		54503-58	54504-58	Option for extra 1" ground clearance
	1967-1971	54501-67 (2)		Low road clearance
XLH 1000	1972	54501-67 (2)		Low road clearance
	1973-1974	54504-73 (2)		High road clearance
	1967-1974	54490-78 (2)		Optional retro-fit to '78 (Showa) w/ Conversion Kit (2)- (54529-76)
	1975-Early 1977	54504-75 (2)		Standard
		54490-78 (2)		Optional retro-fit to '78 (Showa)
	Late 1977-1978	54490-78 (2)		(Showa) Standard
	Early 1979 ⁵⁾	54528-77 12.7" (2)		Standard
	Late 1979 ⁶⁾	54565-79 13.5" (2)		Standard
	Late 1979-1981 ⁷⁾	54568-79B 12.5" (2)		Standard
1982-1985 ⁸⁾	54568-82 (2)		Standard	
XLCH 883	1958-1966	54503-58 (2)		Standard
	1967-1971	54490-78 (2)		Optional retro-fit to '78 (Showa) w/ Conversion Kit (2)- (54529-76)

XLCH 1000	1972-1974	54490-78 (2)	Optional retro-fit to '78 (Showa) w/ Conversion Kit (2)- (54529-76)
	1973-1974	54504-73 (2)	High road clearance
	1975-Early 1977	54504-75 (2)	Standard
		54490-78 (2)	Optional retro-fit to '78 (Showa)
	Late 1977-1978	54490-78 (2)	(Showa) Standard
	Early 1979 ⁹⁾	54528-77 12.7" (2)	Standard
	Late 1979 ¹⁰⁾	54565-79 13.5" (2)	Standard
Late 1979 ¹¹⁾	54568-79B 12.5" (2)	Standard	
XLS 1000	Late 1978 ¹²⁾	54528-77 12.7" (2)	Standard
	Early 1979 ¹³⁾	54565-79 13.5" (2)	Standard
	Late 1979 ¹⁴⁾	54470-79 (2)	(Black) Standard
	Late 1979-1981 ¹⁵⁾	54568-79B 12.5" (2)	Standard
	1982-1985 ¹⁶⁾	54568-82 (2)	Standard
XLX-61 1000	1983-1985 ¹⁷⁾	54568-82 (2)	Standard

Shock Conversion Kit 54529-76

- Basically, a new stud kit (one for each side) was needed to retro-fit '67-'74 shocks to the new '78 Showa shock assembly including;
 - Upper and lower studs, washers and an outer bolt cover.

Rear Shock Inspection

Mounting Bushings

- The condition of the rear shock absorber upper and lower mounting bushings should be checked at least every 5,000 miles since excessive looseness of the bushings could affect proper shock absorber function. ¹⁸⁾
 - Check for looseness by raising and supporting the rear of the motorcycle (taking the weight off shocks). Twist the shocks while making sure the shock eyes move only the limited amount allowed by normal rubber flexing.
 - If the rubber bushing is loose in any shock eye, remove shock upper and lower mounting bolts (one side at a time). Remove rubber bushings and inspect for a worn or distorted condition.
 - Replace both upper and lower bushings. Tighten mounting bolts to 20 ft-lbs torque. Repeat procedure for other side.
 - Note that replacement of all 4 bushings is recommended if any needs replacement.

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1)

1952-1959 HD Spare Parts Catalog for all Sportsters and K Models pg 50-53

2)

1953-1963 HD Sportster and K Model Parts catalog pg 58

3)

1954-1978 HD Sportster Parts Catalog (99451-78B pgs 129, 131

4) 5) 6) 9) 10) 13) 14)

1979 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 57

7) 8) 11) 12) 15) 16) 17)

1979-1985 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 95

18)

HD Service Bulletin #M-764 dated December 21, 1979

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