Installation Instructions

Steering bearings

Note: These instructions are very general and you should have a service manual for your particular model of bike to get a better understanding of your particular setup and to get factory recommended torque levels.

1) Clean bike
2) Remove triple clamps from bike frame.
   a) Remove upper triple clamp.
   b) Remove spanner nut to drop the steering stem out of the frame.
3) Remove the old outer races from the frame.
   a) It is possible to remove the old outer races with a drift. Although a steering bearing removal tool works best.
   b) Tap around the inside edge evenly with a drift until the races come out. (upper and lower.) (Fig A)
4) Remove lower steering bearing from steering stem.
   a) Remove the rollers from the bearing by destroying the cage. By removing the cage and rollers you will expose a lip on the bearing.
   b) A bearing puller may be used. However a drift may be used to tap the bearing off while the stem is being held in a vice. When clamping the stem in a vice make sure to hold it in the middle of the stem away from where the bearings rest. (Fig B)
5) Inspect parts.
   a) Clean all parts thoroughly at this point remove all old grease rust and grime.
   b) The frame head tube should be checked for burs.
   c) Remove any burs they will hang up the new races during installation.
   d) Inspect the steering stem for any damage that may interfere with the new bearing.
6) Install the lower steering bearing.
   a) Remember to slide the steering seal onto the stem first.
   b) Find a pipe that slides over the steering stem but only makes contact with the inner race of the bearing. (Fig C) Pressing on the cage of the bearing will distort it and may cause binding in your steering.
7) Install the new outer races.
   a) A bearing installation tool works best but they can also be pressed in.
   b) The key is to start them straight never apply pressure to the tapered portions of the races this could nick them causing steering binding.
   c) A tool can easily be made with a piece of threaded bar stock some nuts that fit it and some washers that have a slightly smaller outside diameter as the races that you are installing. After the bearings are pulled in hit both ends of the threaded rod with a hammer to fully seat the bearings. (Fig D)
8) Inspect your work.
   a) Make sure that the lower steering bearing and the outer races are seated properly.
   b) Grease the bearings thoroughly.
9) Reassemble the steering assembly.
   a) Insert the steering stem back into the frame.
   b) Place the upper bearing and seal onto the stem. Thread the spanner nut back onto the stem. Torque spanner nut to factory recommended levels.
   c) Place the top triple clamp and washer back into place thread the top nut back on and torque to factory recommended levels.
   d) Turn the assembly left and right to check for binding.
10) Maintenance.
    a) It may be necessary to re-torque the spanner nut after the new bearings settle into place.
11) Install All Balls Racing sticker.