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IH: Suspension

Swingarm (rear fork) Info

Sub Documents

- [1957-1985 Swingarm Pics and Information](#)
- [1957-1978 Swingarm Assembly](#)

A number of 1972 Sportsters were produced from November 1, 1971 to March 29, 1972 without the (3 position) stake operation performed on the rear left side fork bearing lock nut (47514-52). Bearing pre-load (which should be kept at 1-2 pounds) is controlled by the left and right (47515-52) bearing lock nuts. The affected VINs were (3A or 4A) 18748H2 to 33040H2. This safety defect prompted a recall of the affected bikes with the dealer being required to remove the rear fork for inspection and stake any of them that were done previously at a rate of \$7 reimbursed labor and handling. ¹⁾

Removing the Swingarm

- Follow the procedure in your FSM to remove the swingarm. However, if you can do it without removing the staked nut on the left side is best. It serves to center the swingarm in the frame and you can bung up the threads on that nut really easily. ²⁾

Swingarm Swaps

- Pre-1979, only the 1977 XLCR had the box arm with Disc. ³⁾
- 1979 - 1981 had the box arm with disc and it will fit pre-79 frames. ⁴⁾
- A 79-81 swing arm will bolt on a 72 frame. Things to consider when changing swingarms are master cylinder placement, operation and the fact that the 79-81 swing arm shock mounting will change the angle of your shocks. ⁵⁾
- Consider if you even want a disc on the rear. It won't work any better than the drum, which is already powerful enough to lock up the wheel. Put your effort into improving the front brake if you want to stop better. ⁶⁾ You would do better by adapting a later 39 MM Evo fork for brakes and handling. ⁷⁾

Bearing Change, 1952-1956 K Models / 1957-E1974 XL/XLH/XLCH

Bearing Kit (47550-74) (replaced the single bearing part # 47521-52) contains 2 bearings which are 0.100" narrower than the original bearing dims used in Sportsters up to February of 1974. The kit also contains a new pivot bolt nut (47512-74), bearing locknuts (L - 47514-74, R - 47515-74) and an outer spacer (47521-74) - clearanced for the new bearings. ⁸⁾

Caution: Parts must not be intermixed on a complete rear fork pivot shaft and bearing assembly. Correct bearing clearance and specified fork bearing preload cannot be obtained with intermixed parts. Correct bearing preload is essential for satisfactory operation and proper motorcycle handling. ⁹⁾

Pivot Bolt / Nut (1952-1981)

L1974-1981 Sportster Rear Fork Pivot Bolt Nut 47512-74



Bearing Locknuts (1952-1981)

1952-1956 K Models and 1957-1981 XL/XLH/XLCH/XLS Bearing Lock Nut Lock Plate

Locknut Lock Plate (47525-52) ¹¹⁾
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1952-1956 K Models & 1957-E1974 XL/XLH/XLCH

Left Bearing Lock Nut (47514-52) ¹²⁾



Right Bearing Locknut (47515-52) ¹³⁾



L1974-1981 XLH/XLCH/XLS

Left Bearing Locknut (47514-74) ¹⁴⁾



Right Bearing Locknut (47515-74) ¹⁵⁾



Parts Lists

Swingarms

Year Model	Swingarm Part #	Notes
1952-1956 All K Models	47504-52	Replaced by 47504-52A (1957) ¹⁶⁾ , Replaced by 47504-52B (1961) ¹⁷⁾
1957-1960 Sportsters	47504-52A ¹⁸⁾	Replaced by 47504-52B (1961) ¹⁹⁾
1961-1966 XLCH 1961-1966 XLH	47504-52B ²⁰⁾	
1967 XLCH	47503-67 ²¹⁾	Replaced by 47504-56B (1968) ²²⁾
1968-1969 XLCH	47504-56B ²³⁾	
1967-1972 XLH 1970-1972 XLCH	47504-67 ²⁴⁾	Replaced by 47504-67A (by -78A catalog, 1981) ²⁵⁾

1973 XLH/XLCH	47504-73 ²⁶⁾	Replaced by 47504-67A (1974) ²⁷⁾
1974 XLH/XLCH	47504-67A ²⁸⁾	
1975-1976 XLH, XLCH	47504-75 ²⁹⁾	
1977-1978 XL, XLCH	47504-76 ³⁰⁾	
1979 XL/XLCH/XLS	47532-79 ³¹⁾	Square tube, with bearings
	47549-79 ³²⁾	Square tube, without bearings
1980-1981 XL/XLS	47532-79A ³³⁾	Square tube, with bearings, replaces 1979 swingarm
	47473-80 ³⁴⁾	Square tube, without bearings, replaces 1979 swingarm
1982 XL/XLS	47532-81 ³⁵⁾	Square tube, with bearings
1983-1985 XL/XLS/XLX	47532-83 ³⁶⁾	Square tube, with bearings

Swingarm Related Parts Lists

Swingarm Bearings / Bushings

Year Model	Bearing(s)	Notes
1952-1956 K Models 1957-E1974 XL/XLH/XLCH	47521-52 (original)	2 required. Timken: Race 17520, Bearing 17580 ³⁷⁾
	Bearing Kit 47550-74 (uses L1974 bearings)	Bearings are shorter than original. Can't mix new parts with original parts Click Here for more information
L1974-1981 XLH/XLCH/XLS	47521-74	2 required. Timken: Race 11520, Bearing 11590 ³⁸⁾
1982-1985 XL/XLS/XLX	47083-81	Left side bushing
	47082-81	Right side bearing, 2 required. Timken: Race LM11710, Bearing LM11749 ³⁹⁾

Bearing Spacers / Shields

1952-1956 K Models 1957-1981 XL/XLH/XLCH/XLS	Inner Bearing Shield	47519-52
	Inner Bearing Spacer	47518-52
1952-1956 K Models 1957-E1974 XL/XLH/XLCH	Outer Bearing Spacer (R)	47517-52
	Outer Bearing Spacer (R)	47517-74

Bearing Locknut

Bearing Locknut		
Year Model	Left	Right
1952-1956 K Models & 1957-E1974 XL/XLH/XLCH	47514-52	47515-52
L1974-1981 XLH/XLCH/XLS	47514-74	47515-74

Bearing Locknut Lock-plate (R)

Bearing Locknut Lock-plate (R)	Part #
52-56 K Models 57-81 XL/XLH/XLCH/XLS	47525-52
(#10) Bearing Retention: Lock-Plate Screw / Washer / Lockwasher (R)	Part #
52-56 K Models 57 Sportster	1187
52-56 K Models 57-63 XL/XLH/XLCH	(#10 x 3/8" self tapping) 2657
52-56 K Models 57-59 Sportsters	(#10x13/32") External tooth shake-proof lockwasher 7220
53-63 K Models 57-63 XL/XLH/XLCH	5/8" Lockwasher 7072
L72-81 XLH/XLCH/XLS	(10-24 x 1/2") Pozidriv fil head (R) 1198
L72-81 XLH/XLCH/XLS	(#10) Lockwasher (R) 7069
54-81 KH/XL/XLH/XLCH/XLS	(5/8") Bearing Lockwasher 7022

Bearing Dust Shield

Bearing Dust Shield	Part #
82-85 XL/XLS/XLX	(2) - (right) 41579-81

Pivot Bolt / Nut

Swingarm Pivot Bolt / Nut	Part #
54-81 KH/XL/XLH/XLCH/XLS	47511-52
82-85 XL/XLS/XLX	41568-81A
Pivot Bolt Nut	Part #
52-56 K Models 57-E74 XL/XLH/XLCH	47512-52
L74-81 XLH/XLCH/XLS	47512-74

Pivot Bolt Spacer

Pivot Bolt Spacer	Part #
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Pivot Bolt Spacer	Part #
82-85 XL/XLS/XLX	(left) 5716

Axle Adjuster and Fork End Covers

Axle Adjuster	Part #
54-78 KH/XL/XLH/XLCH	Axle Adjuster (2) 39985-52
79-85 XL/XLCH/XLS/XLX	Axle Adjuster (2) 41570-77

Axle Adjuster Nuts / Washers	Part #
54-78 KH/XL/XLH/XLCH	Inner Axle Adjuster Nut (2) 7753 (5/16"-24 NF x 17/64" x 1/2" hex)
54-78 KH/XL/XLH/XLCH	Outer Axle Adjuster Nut (2) 7744 (5/16"-24 NF x 3/16" x 1/2" hex)
79-85 XL/XLCH/XLS	Washer, (2) 6324W (5/16" x 11/16" x 3/32")
79-85 XL/XLCH/XLS	Locknut,(2) 7725 (5/16"x24 x 11/32" x 1/2" hex)

Fork End Covers	Part #
79 XL/XLCH/XLS	(2) 47554-78
79-85 XL/XLCH/XLS/XLX	(2) 47554-73

Plastic Bearing Plug

Plastic Bearing Plug	Part #
83-85 XLX	(Left) 10040

Passenger Footpeg Bracket

Passenger Footpeg Bracket	Part #
83-85 XL/XLS	(2) 50615-83
83-85 XL/XLS	3/8" Lockwasher for Footpeg Bracket (2) 7045
83-85 XL/XLS	3/8"x16 2" Knurled 9/16" Socket Head Screw (2) 855 for Passenger Footpeg Bracket

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1)

HD Service Bulletin #636 dated April 27, 1972 pg OC-403

2)

GA_Ironhead

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/47932-steering-head-swingarm-bearings-and-races?t=185355>

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<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/185403-77-swingarm?t=1985335&highlight=swingarm>

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MXHD55U

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/185403-77-swingarm?t=1985335&highlight=swingarm>

6)

Hopper

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8) 9)

HD Service Bulletin #688 dated May 12, 1974

10) 13) 15)

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photo courtesy of Ebay seller, Sum-body's Harley Parts, [Link to Ebay Store](#)

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photos courtesy of Deep South Cycles, [Link to Ebay Store](#)

14)

photos courtesy of Ebay seller, Sum-body's Harley Parts, [Link to Ebay Store](#)

16) 18)

1957 Spare Parts Catalog for all Sportster and K Models pg 38

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1961 HD Parts Catalog Supplement for Sportsters and KH Models

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1967 HD Sportster and KH Model Parts Catalog pg 50

22) 23)

1968 HD Sportster Parts Catalog Supplement

24)

1970 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 49

25)

1954-1978 HD Parts Catalog -78A pg 111

26)

1973 HD Sportster Parts Catalog Supplement

27) 28)

1974 HD Sportster Parts Catalog Supplement

29)

1975 and 1976 HD Sportster Parts Catalog Supplements

30)

1977 HD Sportster Parts Catalog Supplement

31) 32)

1979 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 53

33) 34)

1979-1981 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 71

35) 36)

1979-1985 HD Sportster Parts Catalog pg 89

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<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/88845-guide-to-swingarm-bearing-replacement/page5?t=709634&page=5>

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