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Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems Provides “Peace of Mind” for Veteran Rider

Cincinnati, OH – Veteran rider and industry advocate Carla King loves the exhilaration that can only be achieved atop a motorcycle – and the relaxation from being the only one on the road. And King has always been fastidious about safety – ensuring that she checks the air pressure in her tires before every ride. But now, thanks to an automated tire pressure monitoring system, King has a new pre-ride routine combined with a new sense of peace and relaxation.

“I’m vigilant about checking tire pressure” says King. “I check before every ride, but still have a nagging worry that a tire will blow out at high speed.” Many riders share this concern. Perhaps they know of people who have had tire-related accidents, as King does, or they have heard of friends-of-friends. “We’ve all heard the stories” said King when recalling the death of friend due to a tire blow out. “It is a feeling of utter helplessness. But it is wonderful that modern technology has solved the problem.”

Among the numerous tire pressure monitoring solutions available, King has recently installed a Doran 360M™ system on her BMW750K. (Although she’s ridden test bikes with TPMS, this was the first time that she’s installed a system). Growing up on a farm, along with a lifetime of tinkering gave King the confidence to tackle the installation – or much of it anyway – herself. You can read her detailed review of the installation on the Women Riders Now website... (<http://www.womenridersnow.com/PublicFiles/Departmentviewer.asp?ArticleID=1374>).

Wiring may be a bit daunting for novices, especially when trying to determine what is a switched line (powered on and off with the ignition) and what is always hot (powered all of the time). Tapping into a switched line ensures that the tire pressure readings are taken each time that the bike is started. Using a hot line would take readings continuously and drain the battery unnecessarily. King used wiring left over from the previous owner’s stereo installation. When King bought the BMW she had the stereo removed, but retained the wiring.



(continued)

“One thing that people may want to consider ahead of time is connectors” says King. “Mine had paddle connectors from a previous wiring project, but the male end was broken off, so that required a trip to the auto parts store” recalled King.

Since the tire pressure sensors on the Doran 360M™ can be mounted internally or externally (like a valve stem) riders have a choice to make in terms of mounting. She opted to mount the sensors on the inside of the tires. Lacking the proper equipment to break down the tires, she ended up taking it the bike to her local mechanic for completion of this aspect of the project. Otherwise, she could have simply screwed the sensors on the valve stems.

Multiple Monitor Mounting Options

King appreciates the multiple options available for mounting the monitor which displays the tire pressure. She opted to mount the digital readout inside the glove compartment since that is where the original stereo wires were located. Although her handle bars were a bit too crowded to accommodate the digital display, there was room for the remote warning light (included with the kit) to alert her of any problems.

“I can see where some riders would want the readout on the handlebars so that they can see their pressure all of the time, while other riders, especially those with cherry, vintage bikes – might not want to add any modern looking options – other than the warning light.”



Whether riders opt to mount the digital LCD display or merely the warning light, the 360M™ functions the same – providing alerts for both slow and fast leaks. Monitoring of slow leaks, like the one which prompted the warning to King, is just one of the ways that the Doran protects riders. Tire pressure is monitored continually, with alerts issued when the pressure drops 12.5% below the pre-set value. Slow leaks would fall into this category.

Should a rider pick up a nail or otherwise damage a tire while riding, this might trigger a “fast leak” warning. To draw more attention to this more serious situation, the warning consists of a flashing light and flashing tire pressure on the monitor (as well as a warning tone).

A Welcome Change

With her newly installed TPMS in place, now King has altered her pre-ride routine. “Now instead of checking the tires manually, I power up the bike and let the sensors check-in” before looking at the digital readout.

In the short time that Carla King has been using her Doran 360M™ she has only had a single warning. “The rear tire was low after sitting for a while” she recalls, “so I aired it up at the nearest gas station.”

While a change in routines can have an unsettling effect on some people, altering her pre-ride ritual has had the opposite effect on Carla King. “It’s like a sigh of relief, knowing that if a tire starts losing air I’ll be warned” she says.

She likens buying a tire pressure monitoring system to buying a helmet. “I don’t know why everyone wouldn’t have one. Sure, you can buy a \$100 helmet or a \$500 helmet – so what is your head worth? Tire pressure monitoring is a bargain at twice the price.”

About Doran Manufacturing: Cincinnati based Doran Manufacturing has been a leading transportation safety products manufacturer for over 35 years. In addition to tire pressure monitoring systems for motorcycles, trucks, RVs and off-road vehicles, the company supplies Light Monitors, Sleeping Child Checks, Emergency Exit Monitors and a full range of LED lighting products to the school bus market. The company also continues to produce and assemble electric terminals and terminal boards in the original factory that was established in 1954. For more information on the Doran 360M™ visit www.doranmfg.com or contact them via e-mail at demis_lee@doranmfg.com, write to Doran Manufacturing, 2851 Massachusetts Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225, or call toll-free (866) 816-SAFE (7233).

About Carla King: Carla writes the Motorcycle Misadventures series of books, articles, and real-time online dispatches from her journeys all around the world. Buy her books and read her thoughts on adventure travel, writing, motorcycle, gear and gadgets on her website at www.carlaking.com or follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MissAdventuring>.