

ARLEN NESS BIG SUCKER

Power Gain From an Air Filter

BY ERNIE LOPEZ ■ PHOTOGRAPHY: ERNIE LOPEZ

This is the Arlen Ness Big Sucker kit: one high-flow air filter, one replacement backing plate, new gaskets, and hardware. With this kit you'll need to use the stock filter cover. Ness offers a few covers to choose from if you prefer, but we wanted to keep the cost down.



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We wanted to find the missing horsepower we kept hearing about, so we searched high and low through the chrome hills of V-Twin cylinder-land (also known as our stock '07 Road Glide), but not a lot was found. So the quest was on—we decided to try a different tack; if we could feed the bike more air and fuel, could we find more power? If something as simple as an air filter was a way to find more horsepower, we wanted to see for ourselves. The Arlen Ness Big Sucker air filter and backing-plate kit was a good place to start. For a retail cost of around \$120, the air filter can be cleaned and reused (not a one-time use), so it seemed like a good deal. Now we just needed to see about that missing power. We stopped at Horn Cycle Works in Pomona, CA, to install the air-filter kit and test it out on the dyno.

The owner, Curtis Horn, got started by strapping the bike on the dyno and doing a few safety checks on things such as tire air pressure and oil levels, then got some base numbers on the bike. It put out around 58.3 hp and 72.9 lb-ft of torque, just about what we expected from a California ride. **HB**



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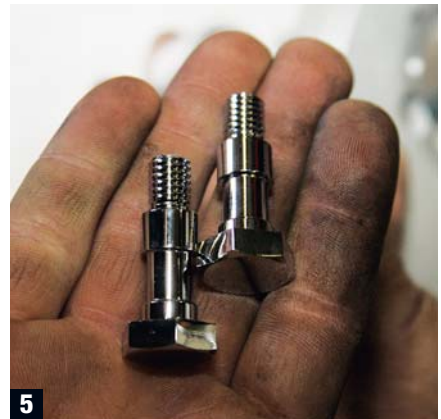
We got started by removing the stock air-filter cover, stock filter, and backing plate. ▶



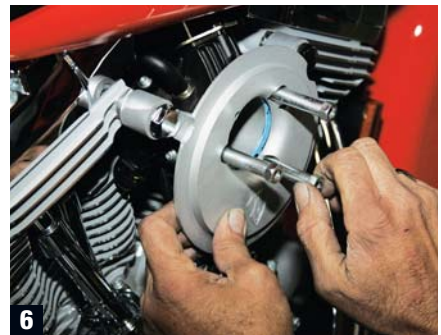
The first thing you can see is how much bigger the Ness filter (left) is.



Next, new O-ring breather gaskets were placed onto the Ness backing plate, along with a new EFI gasket. A small dab of 575 sealant kept them in place 'til the backing plate was tightened down.



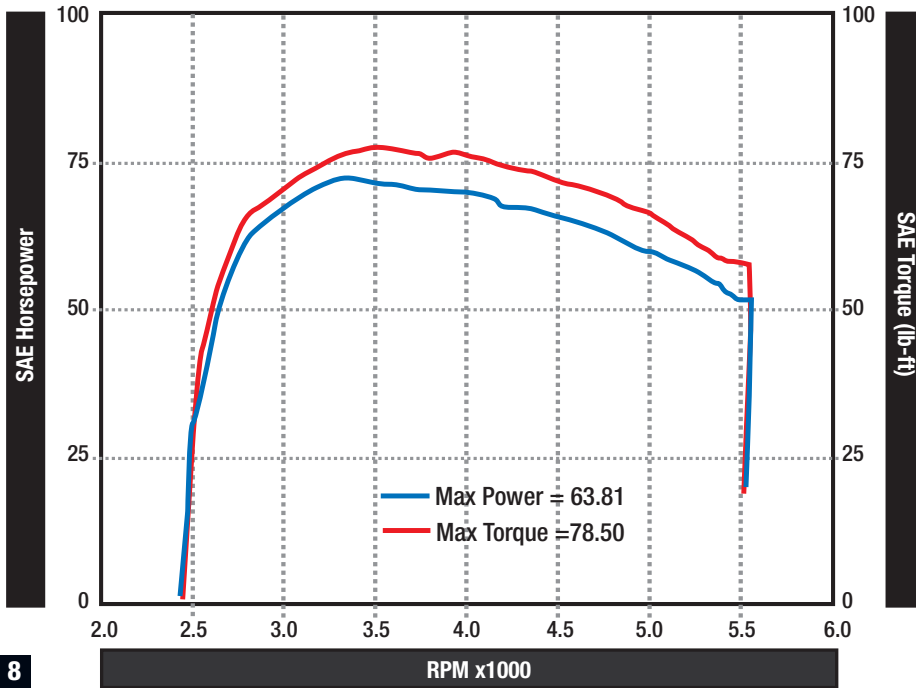
Two different-sized head breather bolts come in the kit, so check to see which size is correct for the year and model of your bike.



With the backing plate in place, the filter's mounting bolts were installed with a small amount of blue threadlocker.



Then the Ness Big Sucker air filter was installed with the stock air-filter cover. ▶



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We ran the bike on the dyno one more time, and the numbers speak for themselves: 63.81 hp and 78.5 lb-ft of torque. That's about a 6hp gain with just an air filter. It may not seem like a lot, but when we took the bike out for a ride, we could feel the additional power when we accelerated.

► SOURCES

Arlen Ness

Call your local dealer.
www.arlenness.com

Horn Cycle Works

909-392-8788
www.hcwcustoms.com
www.horncycleworks.net

