



# Installation Instructions 422 Series Shocks 2000 & Later\* Harley Davidson Softails

### ATTENTION

Statements in these instructions that are preceded by the following words are of special significance:

#### **Warning**

This means there is the possibility of injury to yourself or others.

#### **Caution**

This means there is the possibility of damage to the vehicle.

#### **Note**

*Information of particular importance has been placed in italics.*

### Warranty

Progressive Suspension warrants to the original purchaser of this Part to be free of manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship with a one year limited warranty (lifetime limited warranty for the spring(s) only). In the event warranty service is required, you must call Progressive Suspension immediately with a description of the problem.

If it is deemed necessary for Progressive Suspension to make an evaluation to determine whether the part is defective, a return authorization number will be given by Progressive Suspension. The parts must be packaged properly so as to not cause further damage and returned prepaid to Progressive Suspension with a copy of the original invoice of purchase and a detailed letter outlining the nature of the problem. If after the evaluation by Progressive Suspension the part was found to be defective it will be repaired or replaced at no cost to you. If we replace it, we may replace it with a reconditioned one of the same design.

Progressive Suspension shall not be held liable for any consequential or incidental damages resulting from the failure of a Progressive Suspension part. Progressive Suspension shall have no obligation if a part becomes defective as a result of improper installation or abuse.

#### **Warning**

Changing the chassis and/or suspension on any vehicle will change the handling characteristics of that vehicle. Care should be taken when operating the vehicle with such modifications while getting accustomed to the new handling characteristics.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Caution:** Please read the following instructions completely before starting installation! Removing and reinstalling the shock absorber, and the spring on said shock absorber, must be performed by a qualified mechanic or according to steps outlined in an authorized shop manual that relates to your particular make, model and year motorcycle. Process may require special tools, fixtures, and/or a press.

The vehicle must be securely blocked to prevent it from dropping or tipping when the shock absorber is removed. Failure to do so can cause serious damage and/or injury!

Progressive Suspension Softail shocks are designed to work with the OEM (Original Equipment) chassis components. Use of this product on any chassis components other than OEM may produce an unsatisfactory ride and void the warranty.

Transmission bolts must be installed in the OEM position to insure proper clearances for the shocks. Consult your factory shop manual for proper installation.

Make sure that proper bushings/sleeves are installed in the shocks. Improper bushings/sleeves can cause unsatisfactory and/or unsafe operation.

## Installation

Progressive Suspension shocks for your 2000 & later Softail are designed as a direct bolt on replacement for your stock units. Although they are very similar in appearance, along with offering adjustable ride height they also have improved damping and spring rates.

- Place motorcycle securely on stand or blocks so the rear wheel is slightly off the ground.
- Per instructions in a authorized shop manual, remove your old shocks. Note location of the mounting hardware.
- Before reinstalling a Progressive Suspension adjustable ride height shock, spin the non-flanged nut all the way onto the stud mount, followed by a bushing-cup, bushing, and sleeve. Then install shocks as you would a stock unit, following an authorized shop manual. With the non-flanged nut spun all the way onto the stud, the stock ride height is achieved. Once you have installed the other bushing, bushing-cup, and flanged nut you can now install the safety E-clip. This E-clip is snapped into the groove near the end of the stud mount where the threads stop.

This is to serve as a reference point ONLY – when the flanged-nut reaches it you have lowered your ride height the maximum 2 inches. DO NOT torque the flange-nut against the E-clip (see figure 1).

- Tighten all shock mounting bolts to the proper torque specifications (see shop manual for specs).
- Progressive Suspension shocks have adjustable pre-load to compensate for varying weights. The included wrench or a Harley Davidson pre-load adjustment wrench is necessary to adjust the pre-load setting. Replacement Progressive Suspension wrenches are available as Part # SW-784 from most Dealers and Accessory Stores and the Harley Davidson wrench is available as part #94455-89 from any Harley Davidson Dealer.
- Spring preload is set by us to the lightest setting. To increase preload for heavier riders/loads/passengers, loosen locknut with the inside portion of the supplied wrench or a 1-1/16" wrench and back it off several turns. Use the supplied wrench or a Harley adjustment wrench to turn the adjustment nut counterclockwise to the desired preload setting. Then tighten the 1-1/16" lock nut. Both shocks must be adjusted to the same, equal setting (See Figure 2).

**Note:** Maximum preload is reached when the locknut and adjusting plate are turned to the end of the threads (no threads showing). This distance is approximately 1/4". Do not turn the locknut past the last thread!

- Test ride the bike and make further adjustments if necessary.  
 Note: Adjusting the preload does not change the shock length.

Your new Progressive Suspension adjustable ride height shocks are capable of lowering your ride height up to 2". To lower your ride height, simply loosen the flange-nuts in equal amounts and when the desired height is reached tighten the non-flanged nuts back against the bushings (torque to factory recommended specifications). Do not tighten the flange nut against the E-clip, it is for reference only. To raise the ride height, reverse the process. Start by loosening the non-flanged nuts away from the bushings, then start tightening the flanged nuts against the bushings (towards the rear of the bike). When the desired ride height is achieved, make sure the non-flanged nuts are re-tightened against the bushings. It will help to hold the stud with a 3/4" wrench on the hex portion of the stud to prevent it from turning while adjusting. NOTE: The amount the nuts move on the stud may not seem like much, but every 5/16" of an inch of adjustment equals approximately 1" of ride height. It is important that the locknut on the preload adjusting plate is securely tightened (see figure 1).

- For a balanced suspension, we highly recommend installing a pair of Progressive Suspension fork springs.
- Ride and enjoy.

