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[How to replace the gear oil in your rear drive](#)

 by [WingAdmin](#) » Thu Apr 02, 2009 7:08 am

The rear drive translates the rotational motion of the driveshaft, which rotates along the longitudinal axis of the motorcycle, to the rotational motion of the rear wheel - essentially, it turns the rotation 90 degrees. It does this using a pinion gear, much like the pinion gear used in the differential of a car:



The gear oil in your rear drive is essential to the smooth operation and long life of your rear drive unit. Without it, the pinion gear would wear out quickly. Because the oil is subjected to extreme shearing forces, special hypoid gear oil must be used:



75W-90 hypoid gear oil is the correct gear oil to use in the rear drive. The shearing forces of the pinion gears break down the gear oil, so it should be changed regularly, and at least once a year.

1. Ride the motorcycle several miles to warm the rear drive, which thins the gear oil and makes it easier to drain.
2. With a suitable catch pan below, remove the rear drive drain plug and allow the gear oil to drain completely.



3. After all the gear oil has drained, replace the drain plug, and remove the fill plug.



4. Fill the rear drive casing with fresh gear oil.



5. The rear drive is full when the gear oil begins to run back out the fill port.



6. Replace the fill plug. You're done!



[WingAdmin](#)

Site Admin

Posts: 974


Joined: Fri Oct 03, 2008 5:16 pm

Location: Strongsville, OH

Motorcycle: 1982 GL1100A Aspencade

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[Re: How to replace the gear oil in your rear drive](#)

 by [colemadad](#) » Wed Feb 03, 2010 5:30 pm

I've always wondered - my 900C had the same thing - what is the nut/fitting on the top of the housing (not show in any of these pics)? Thanks.

[colemadad](#)

Posts: 5

Joined: Tue Dec 08, 2009 8:07 pm

Location: Moncton, NB

Motorcycle: 1980 Honda 900c

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[Re: How to replace the gear oil in your rear drive](#)

 by [WingAdmin](#) » Wed Feb 03, 2010 6:27 pm

I think you're talking about this:



That is a vent. As it heats up in there (and it does get warm), the air needs a place to escape, so it doesn't blow out the seals. Similarly, air needs to get back in once it cools off.

If you manage to fill it with too much gear oil, it will blow oil out of this vent as well.



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[Re: How to replace the gear oil in your rear drive](#)

 by [colemadad](#) » Wed Feb 03, 2010 7:07 pm

That's it. Thanks - another of life's little mysteries unraveled.

[colemadad](#)

Posts: 5

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