

SERVICE

SHOP DOPE

No. 377

September 1, 1956

BATTERIES - NEW ADJUSTMENT POLICY

All Harley-Davidson batteries are warranted for 90 days in normal service against defects in material or workmanship. Any battery that proves defective within 90 days from date of sale by dealer is to be replaced free of charge by dealer to original purchaser.

After 90 days, but within 12 months, (police and commercial, 8 months) a battery that fails in normal use, (not simply discharged) should be replaced by dealer on a prorata basis. Purchaser is to be charged only for that portion of battery's warranted life that has been used up.

This warranty does not apply to a battery that has been frozen, accidentally damaged, or has not had normal care.

CODING METHOD

Every Harley-Davidson battery is coded at factory to show when battery was produced and shipped. Wet batteries have a double code; dry batteries one code only, both with space provided for dating by dealer when battery is placed in service. Dry battery cartons are date-stamped to indicate storage time limit.

WET BATTERIES - Manufacturing date code consists of a letter followed by a numeral. Months are indicated by letters A to L inclusive, years by numerals 1 to 0. This code can be disregarded by dealer. It is for factory records only.

Shipping date code (month and year battery is shipped from factory) is also a numeral and letter code, but the numeral comes first, followed by letter. This is the code with which you are concerned since, applying to wet batteries, factory adjustment to dealer is figured from this date.

NOTE: To compensate for time in transit, and shelf time, we always add two months to wet battery warranty and service adjustment period. That means that a battery, which according to shipping code date is five months old, is actually considered to be a 90 day old battery for factory adjustment purposes.

DRY BATTERIES - Carry one code only. Code stamped on battery is battery shipping code - numeral first, letter second.

Dealer's adjustment to owner is determined by date shown on Owner's Warranty Card. This date should be same as date of sale scratched on battery by dealer when battery is sold and Warranty Card made out by dealer.

Factory adjustment to dealer will also be on basis of date shown on Owner's Warranty Card and dealer's scratched-in sales date on battery cover or code panel.

In addition, battery carton is stamped with date indicating "in stock" time limit when battery must be activated and placed in service to qualify for factory warranty adjustment.

OWNER'S WARRANTY CARD

All dry batteries have Owner's Warranty Card included in carton. Dealer must fill in this card (typewriter or ink) and give it to purchaser when battery is sold. Dealer must also scratch date of sale on battery jar or cover at same time. If adjustment claim is made, section of battery jar or cover showing shipping date and scratched-in date of sale; also Owner's Warranty Card must be returned to factory with Instruction Sheet.

For the present, at least, no warranty cards will be issued with wet motorcycle batteries.

ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURE

Wet Batteries - Dealer can make on-the-spot adjustment to owner, based on purchase date scratched on jar by dealer at time of battery sale to owner. Dealer then has the option of returning to the factory complete battery, or sawed-out section of battery jar or cover showing shipping code and dealer's scratched-in date of sale. Instruction Sheet with full information must be mailed in either case.

Factory adjustment to dealer is determined by shipping code date, and date complete battery or cover with code are received at factory.

Dry Batteries - Dealer makes adjustment to owner on basis of purchase date - either free replacement or service adjustment - according to Owner's Warranty Card.

To obtain adjustment from factory, dealer returns either coded plate from side of battery jar, or section of battery or cover showing shipping code. Remainder of battery can be scrapped by dealer.

Instruction Sheet with full details, and Owner's Warranty Card must be mailed to factory in every case.

Factory Adjustment Examples - Battery (wet) carrying shipping code 6F (June 1956) proves defective in October, 1956, and is returned to factory in same month. Factory adjustment to dealer would be on no charge terms (Starting with code date month count June, July, August, September, and month battery is received at factory, October - 5 months). While battery is actually five months old, we deduct two months and allow free replacement to dealer.

If this same wet battery (6F-June 1956) came back here in January 1957, factory adjustment to dealer would be at service charge of 50% - 6/12 of new battery cost (private owner) or 75% - 6/8 of new battery cost (police or commercial owner).

If dry battery sold in June 1956, proved defective in September, 1956, replacement would be handled on no charge terms. If dry battery six months old proved unsatisfactory, adjustment would be at service charge of 50% - 6/12 of new battery cost (private owner) or 75% - 6/8 of new battery cost (police or commercial owner).

Dealer's Adjustment to Owner - In each case, dealer's adjustment to owner is based on selling date as indicated by date shown on Owner's Warranty Card and scratched-in date on battery jar or cover at time of sale.

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Batteries up to 3 months old should be replaced free of charge. After 3 months, but within 12 months (police and commercial, 8 months) batteries that fail in normal service should be replaced with new batteries at 1/12 or 1/8 list price of new battery for each month replaced battery was in service.

BEAR IN MIND

Dealer's adjustment to purchaser is always determined by date shown on Owner's Warranty Card and/or date scratched on battery by dealer at the time of battery sale. This applies to batteries shipped wet or dry.

Factory adjustment to dealer on wet batteries is always made on basis of shipping code date stamped on battery, and date battery or sawed-out section of battery jar or cover showing code date and dealer's scratched-in date of sale - is received here.

Factory adjustment on batteries shipped dry is determined exclusively by purchase date shown on Owner's Warranty Card, which must correspond with date scratched on battery cover or code plate by dealer when dealer sells battery. Code plate or section of jar or cover showing code and date of sale must be returned with Instruction Sheet and Owner's Warranty Card.

It is therefore to your advantage to watch your battery stock, particularly wet batteries, carefully - and to be sure that oldest batteries go into service first.

Batteries shipped dry must be activated and placed in service before date stamped on carton label; otherwise no factory warranty to dealer applies.

CONCLUSION - This adjustment plan is intended to simplify handling for all concerned, and to save considerably on transportation charges. However, all concerned must study the plan carefully and follow established procedure; otherwise adjustment plan as outlined cannot work effectively.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR CO.
Milwaukee 1, Wis., U.S.A.

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HARLEY-DAVIDSON BATTERY CODES

WET BATTERIES (2 Codes)

DRY BATTERIES (1 Code Only)

Mfg. Code

Shipping Code

Shipping Code

Month First	Year Second	Year First	Month Second
Jan. - A	1955-5	1955-5	A - Jan.
Feb. - B	1956-6	1956-6	B - Feb.
Mar. - C	1957-7	1957-7	C - Mar.
Apr. - D	1958-8	1958-8	D - Apr.
May - E	1959-9	1959-9	E - May
Jun. - F	1960-0	1960-0	F - Jun.
Jul. - G	1961-1	1961-1	G - Jul.
Aug. - H	1962-2	1962-2	H - Aug.
Sept. - I	1963-3	1963-3	I - Sept.
Oct. - J	1964-4	1964-4	J - Oct.
Nov. - K	1965-5	1965-5	K - Nov.
Dec. - L	1966-6	1966-6	L - Dec.
Examples		Examples	
A5	Jan. 1955	5A	Jan. 1955
F6	Jun. 1956	6F	Jun. 1956

Both codes stamped on jar cover - or on side of battery jar.

Year First	Month Second
1955-5	A - Jan.
1956-6	B - Feb.
1957-7	C - Mar.
1958-8	D - Apr.
1959-9	E - May
1960-0	F - Jun.
1961-1	G - Jul.
1962-2	H - Aug.
1963-3	I - Sept.
1964-4	J - Oct.
1965-5	K - Nov.
1966-6	L - Dec.
Examples	
5A	Jan. 1955
6F	Jun. 1956

Code stamped on jar cover - or on side of battery jar.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR CO.
Milwaukee 1, Wis., U.S.A.

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The results of our research is published on our website
www.harleyKmodel.com