

# TEARDROP Saddlebags



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## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### WARNING:

#### READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE STARTING!

- You must mount saddlebags properly and securely before riding motorcycle. Failure to do so could result in damage to the saddlebag and motorcycle.
- You are responsible for the correct installation and safe use of these bags. Seek qualified instruction if you are uncertain about their capabilities and limitations
- The included saddlebag supports must be used to keep saddlebags from moving, contacting or interfering with shocks, swingarm, brakes and wheel.
- Saddlebags must be tied down and secured to a solid part of the motorcycle to prevent any movement during operation.
- Do not use these bags if the mounting system has deteriorated, loosened or is beginning to fail
- Do not exceed maximum weight of 10 lbs per saddlebag.
- For safety and security, we recommend that the yoke zippers be locked at all times, when the saddlebags are on the motorcycle.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THESE SADDLEBAGS IF...
  - ...you do not understand these instructions
  - ...you do not understand any part of the mounting system
  - ...you have any doubts as to the security of the mounting system.
- If you have any doubts or questions, SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP at your qualified motorcycle dealer or call Saddlemen at 310-638-1222.



*Motorcycling is an inherently dangerous activity. Installation of any accessory, including saddlebags, can add to the danger if they are not installed safely. You must use saddlebag supports included with this product, and install them in a manner in which they will not contact any part of the drivetrain, suspension or steering, or interfere with any operation of the motorcycle. If you do not know how to do this, or have any doubts as to your ability, please have a qualified motorcycle mechanic install them.*

#### PARTS LIST see corresponding image at right

- 2 - Saddlebags 1 - Yoke (halves attached to bags) 1 - Instructions  
 A) 1 - Set of saddlebags supports, chrome, 1-left and 1-right (1" offset)  
 B) 1 - Universal turn signal relocater (license plate mount)  
 C) 2 - Sets, metal support clip and backup plate  
 D) 4 - #10 Screws, washers and acorn nuts for metal support clip  
 E) 4 - Rubber Grommets  
 F) 8 - Spacers, chrome 3/4" x 1/2" x 10mm hole  
 G) 8 - Fender Washers  
 H) 8 - Electrical Butt connectors for wire  
 I) 4 - #14 or #16 electric wire by 12" long (stranded)  
 J) 4 - 5/16"-18 x 3" K) 4 - 3/8" - 16 x 3 M) 4 - M8 x 1.25 x 70  
 N) 4- M6 x1.5x70 O) 4 - M10 x 1.25 x70  
 (not shown) 4- Padlocks with keys

**WARNING:** Improper saddlebag installation may cause contact between the bags and the motorcycle's running gear, producing a safety hazard. Please check that saddlebags are not in contact with moving parts. Make sure to carefully follow the installation instructions that come with the saddlebags.

**NOTE:** The saddlebags must be securely mounted to the motorcycle so that they can support any load that you intend to carry (less than 10 pounds per side) and so that the bags clear all moving or suspension components thru the full suspension travel, even when the bags are loaded. Be especially careful that the cantilevered bottom inside edge of the bag, and all other surfaces, clear all components such as shocks, swingarms, brake calipers, brake rods and lines, chain guard, etc. after installation. Be sure to load and compress the suspension through its full range of motion to check for clearance.

**NOTE:** Inspect the bags immediately after first use to determine that the bags are not interfering with moving components. Inspect weekly thereafter to be certain that the bags are not contacting moving parts and that the bags are not developing cracks as a result of inadequate mounting support, especially around any holes drilled through the bags.

**NOTE:** After 50 miles (80 kilometers), recheck the tightness of all nuts and bolts. Inspect periodically during normal maintenance checks thereafter. Loose fasteners can impair the normal operation of the motorcycle, and can be a safety issue.

**NOTE:** These supports are designed to work with Saddlemen's Express Saddlebags, and all other makes and models of universal saddlebags. Saddlemen Express bags have special features optimized to compliment these supports.

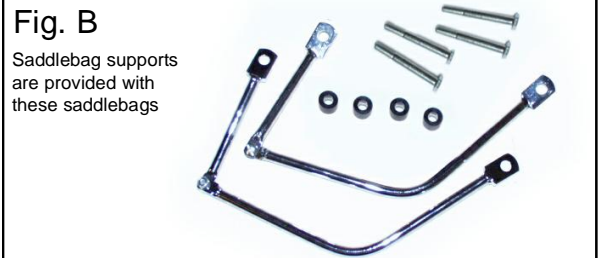
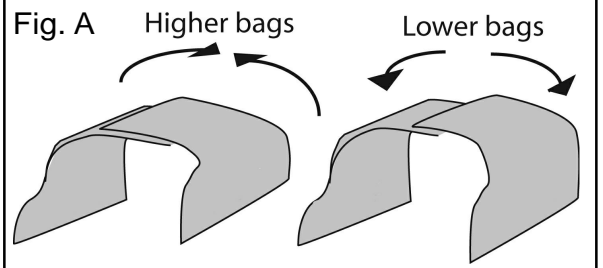
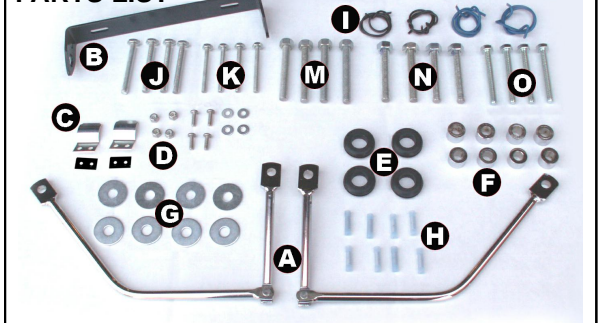
**WARNING:** Overloaded or overweight bags can move the Supports inward. Before riding, visually check the clearance between the Supports and any moving parts that could impair normal operation of the motorcycle.

**NOTE:** If the bags obstruct the motorcycle's side marker reflectors contact saddlemen to purchase self-adhesive reflectors. If the installed bags obstruct the original factory turn signals or other reflectors, they must be moved where they are clearly visible from the side of the motorcycle.

**NOTE:** DO NOT connect any straps to flexible or moving parts of the motorcycle (rubber mounted turn signals, swingarm, shocks).

**NOTE:** You must tuck away, tie, or cut/shorten all loose mounting straps BEFORE you ride the motorcycle. See warning information above.

#### PARTS LIST



## A NOTE ABOUT TURN SIGNAL RELOCATION

In most cases, relocation of your turn signals will not be necessary. However, in some cases it will be, so this saddlebag kit provides a Turn Signal Relocation Bracket which moves your turn signals to the license plate mount (only recommended for bikes with license plate located at rear of fender). It is prudent to do all of your measuring first, and decide early how you're going to mount your saddlebags, and if the turn signals require relocation. If they do not, you can discard the Turn Signal Relocation Bracket included in this kit.

1. Some motorcycles (Harley Dyna, Sportster and others) may require signal relocation in order to use both holes in the fender strut for mounting the chrome saddlebag support brackets.
2. Some motorcycles simply do not have the clearance between the turn signal and shock absorbers or passenger footpeg to properly install these saddlebags. In both of these instances, please see *TURN SIGNAL RELOCATION INSTRUCTIONS* following below.

**NOTE:** Check saddlebag mounting and strap tightness each time you stop.

## MULTIPLE INSTALLATION OPTIONS- READ THIS FIRST

### Choose which installation method works best for your bike

There are at least three different ways to install these saddlebags on your bike. Please read all three installation suggestions and then decide which installation method is right for you.

**Installation Option #1: TRADITIONAL OVER-THE-FENDER** All hardware and yokes are included for Installation Option #1, which will put the saddlebags on your bike in a traditional pony express style, hanging the saddlebags from the included yoke which rests on your back fender or your back seat. The included saddlebag support brackets must also be used.

#### Over The Fender using Yoke: Installation

1. Install Saddlebag Support Brackets (see below).
2. Saddlemen saddlebags mount over the back seat or rear fender of most motorcycles, with one saddlebag on each side of the motorcycle and the mounting yoke resting on the fender or seat. Both saddlebags must be securely mounted and tied down in a manner that does not interfere with any part of the motorcycle's operation, including turnsignals, tail or brake lights, or the suspension or drivetrain.
3. Your saddlebags must be at least two inches clear of any exhaust pipe, while stationary and moving. You can adjust the yoke to change the height of the bag on the motorcycle by aligning the different holes in the two piece yoke and using the supplied draw cords to attach them. Adjust the yoke shorter for higher saddlebags, and vice versa- see Fig. A. It is critical that you also attach the thinner web safety strap after aligning the yoke on the bike.
4. When you've placed the bag on your bike in the proper position, use the straps located on the bottom of each bag (Fig. F and G) to connect the bag to the saddlebag support. These lower straps are length-adjustable; wrap them around the support, buckle the ends together, then adjust the length so that straps are tight and they are supporting some of the saddlebags' weight. Trim any excess strap after the buckle is tightened to prevent entanglement with moving bike parts during operation. Burn or heat the strap ends, melting them to prevent unravelling.
5. The zippered yoke attachment to each saddlebag allows easy removal of the bag while leaving the yoke on the bike undisturbed.

**WARNING:** Do not operate motorcycle with bags removed and straps still attached to supports.

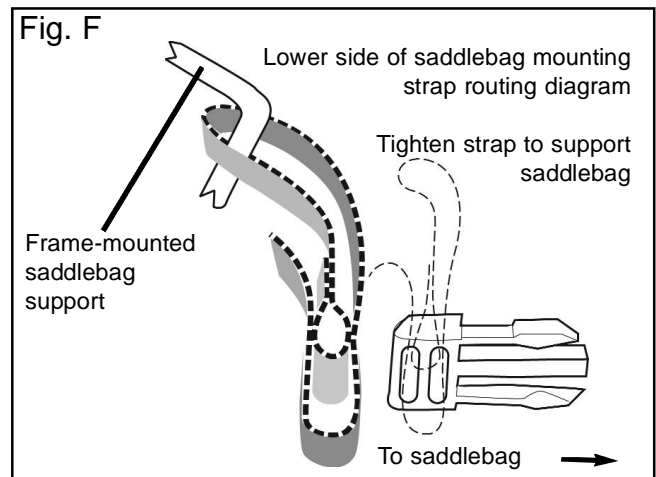
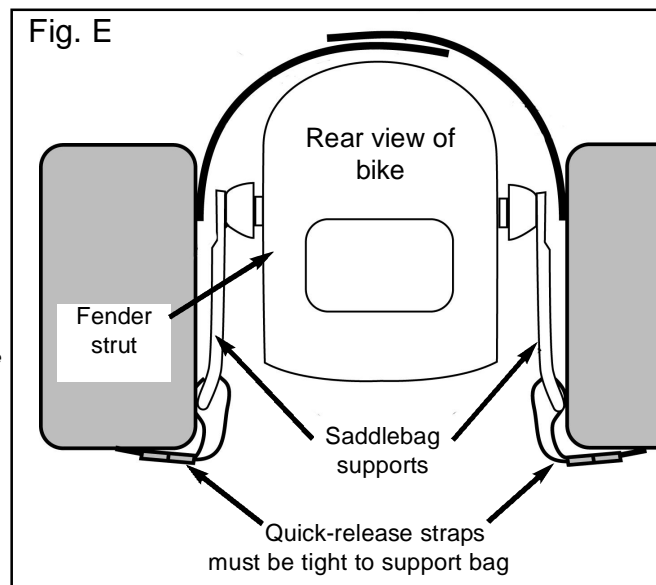
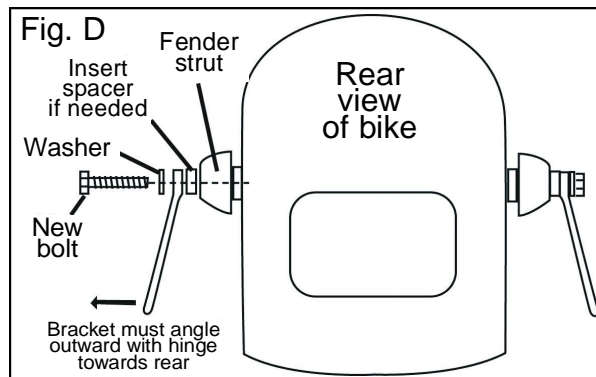
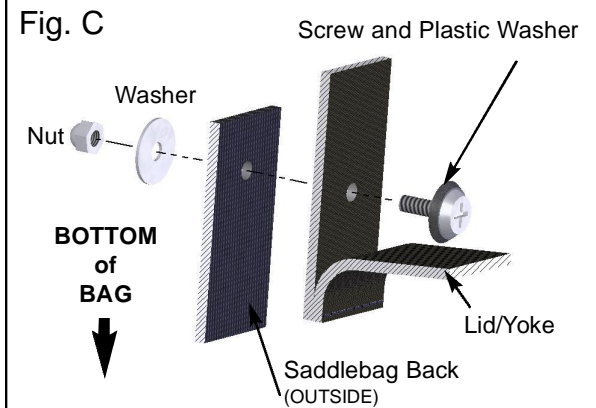
**NOTE:** Saddlebags must not move around; if they do, you must tie them securely to your saddlebag supports. The use of zip ties, cable ties or Saddlemen Tie Down Kit #5108 may be used to secure the bags using the two attachment points at the bottom corners of each saddlebag.

**Installation Option #2: CUSTOM FIT HARD MOUNT** This custom mounting may require additional spacers, nuts, bolts or other hardware to get the correct fit for your bike, which will be different for every bike. Also, it's possible that not all of the hardware in this kit will be used. This universal saddlebag kit does not foresee every motorcycle configuration, but the general guidelines herein apply to most installations. Custom fit mounting is accomplished by attaching the bags directly to the included support brackets and the bike's fender struts.

#### Custom Fit Hard-Mounting: Installation

We recommend working on one side of the motorcycle at a time, and completing a full installation on the first side before beginning the second side. This will maintain fender alignment and make it easier to install the fender strut bolts. Refer to Fig. G.

1. Remove the yokes from each saddlebag (see Fig. C) by taking off the small nuts and bolts that hold the yoke to each bag. The smooth back-side of the bags can be drilled to facilitate mounting directly to the fender or fender struts, or to the chrome supports that are included with these bags. When planning your installation, try to spread the mounting load and stress over the largest area possible.
2. Most installations will utilize the fender struts and their fender mounting locations for connecting the saddlebags and any brackets or supports to the motorcycle. Other locations can also include turn signal or top shock mounting points. Mounting points should be as far apart as possible.
3. Hold the saddlebag against the motorcycle in the desired position. Check to be sure that there is a minimum of 1 1/2 inches (40mm) clearance between the bag and the exhaust pipe or muffler. A short piece of wood (2x4) can be placed on top of the muffler as a temporary spacer. Check to see that the saddlebag is in the correct front to back position, not interfering with the turn signals, shock absorber or passenger footpegs.
4. Measure and mark on the back of the saddlebag the location for the two holes you will need to drill, which correspond directly with the two fender strut bolts on your bike.
5. Using a 1 inch hole saw cut the holes in the back of each saddlebag. If the saddlebag has a mesh or a pocket on the inside, protect this by placing several layers of heavy cardboard or



a piece of wood inside between the back and the mesh.

6. See Fig. H. Install a rubber grommet in each one-inch hole. An aluminum spacer goes in the middle of each grommet.

7. Place the chrome saddlebag support on the back of the saddlebag, lining up the two mounting holes with the two holes you've just drilled.

8. Place one of the small metal support clips over the center of the lower portion of the support, with the two holes against the bag and above the bar. Mark the position of the holes.

9. Drill 3/16inch diameter holes in these marked positions. Protect any pockets inside the bag from your drill.

10. See Fig. H. Using the #10 screws and nuts supplied (pop rivets, not included, can also be used) attach the support clip with the back-up plate on the inside of the saddlebag. If using the screws, do not over tighten and crush the backing material.

11. Remove the fender strut bolts from one side of the bike.

12. From this kit, select bolts with the same diameter & thread as the bolts you removed from your bike, but appropriately longer to also fit the support brackets and any spacers you might need to use. When choosing spacer location, make sure that the bag supports will clear all drivetrain components (brakes/pulley/wheel/etc) thru the entire suspension travel (fully loaded bike), and use the appropriate spacers on each bolt.

13. See Fig. G. Use a fender washer on the inside of the saddlebag, against the rubber grommet, and use spacers along the length of the bolt to ensure that the saddlebags do not contact your bike's drivetrain.

**NOTE:** Longer mounting bolts are included, but may require cutting to the proper length. Make sure that the mounting bolts do not protrude inside the fender and make contact with tire or wheel.

### Installation Option #3:

#### SADDLEMEN S4™ QUARTER TURN QUICK DISCONNECT SYSTEM

(requires additional purchase)

For a truly custom installation without a yoke, which gives the ability to quickly take your bags off and put them back on in seconds, you'll need Saddlemen's S4 Quick Disconnect Mounting Post Kit for your bike. This is the ultimate saddlebag upgrade, sold separately at your dealer or by calling Saddlemen at 800-397-7709. The S4 Quick Disconnect Docking Post Kit will work with the saddlebag supports that came with these saddlebags, giving you the complete quick-disconnect installation setup without a yoke. The S4 quarter turn docking posts directly replace the spacers inside the rubber grommets used in this kit. The installation is nearly identical, using new quick-disconnect docking posts to replace the bolts supplied with this saddlebag kit.

## SADDLEBAG SUPPORT INSTALLATION for mounting options #1 and #2

You'll need to install the included chrome saddlebag support brackets onto your bike (See Fig. B), to keep the saddlebags from coming in contact with the wheel, brake, swingarm, pulley, etc. When you're finished, the saddlebags and support brackets should remain clear of all other motorcycle components during full travel of the suspension (under load).

The location of spacers and the addition of grommets and other hardware

**CAUTION:** This kit is designed to fit several model motorcycles, and contains multiple length bolts, which if installed incorrectly could interfere with the tire. When installing a bolt through the fender, check to be sure that it does not extend inside the fender further than the original fastener. If it does it must be cut off, or exchanged for a shorter bolt in the kit.

We recommend working on one side of the motorcycle at a time, and completing a full installation on the first side before beginning the second side. This will maintain fender alignment and make it easier to install the fender strut bolts.

1) Remove the fender strut bolts from one side of the bike.

2) See Fig. G. From this kit, select bolts with the same diameter & thread as the bolts you removed from your bike, but appropriately longer to also fit the support brackets and any spacers you might need to use. Make sure that the bag supports will clear all drivetrain components (brakes/pulley/wheel/etc) thru the entire suspension travel (fully loaded bike), and use the appropriate spacers on each bolt. CAREFULLY CUT EACH BOLT TO THE CORRECT LENGTH.

3) Bolt this assembly to the strut.

**WARNING:** Check to see that the bolts do not extend past the inside of the fender further than the original fastener. Fastener contact with the tire can lead to premature tire failure, which could result in death or serious injury.

4) Repeat the same installation process on the motorcycle's other side.

5) Check and adjust alignment and tighten all bolts securely.

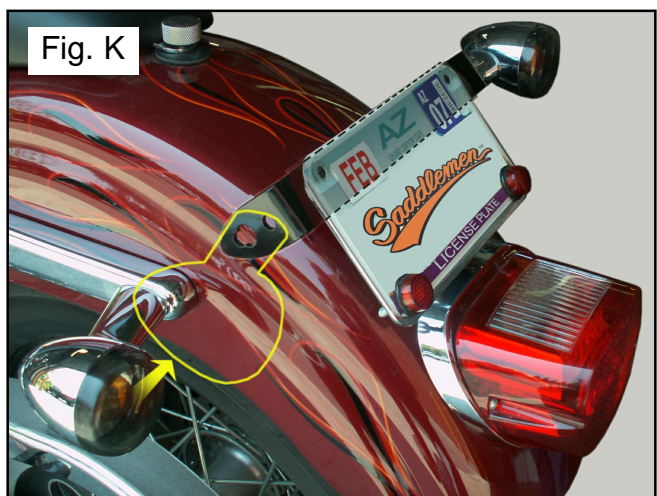
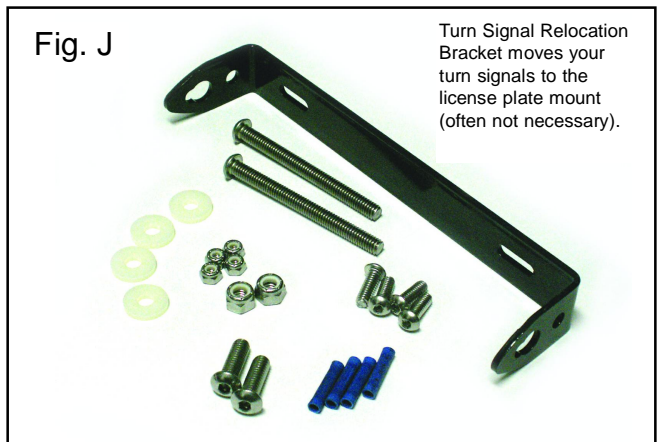
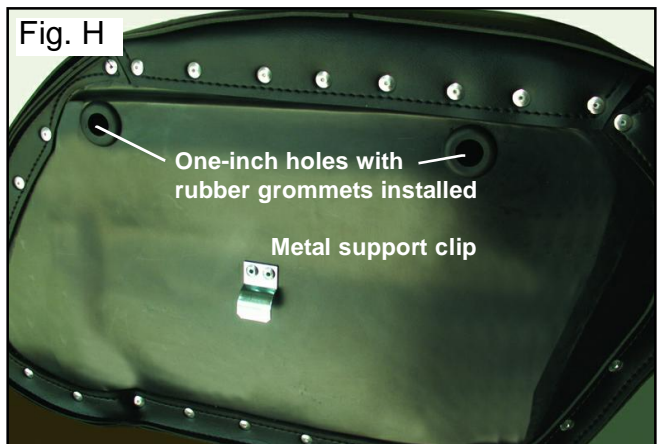
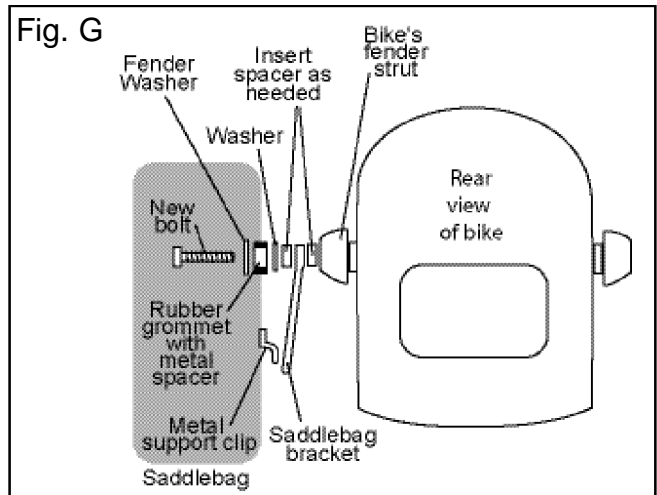
6) We recommend using a thread sealant like Loctite or Vibratite on the saddlebag supports fasteners.

## Turn Signal Relocation Bracket Installation (optional)

**NOTE:** Turn signal relocation is only necessary when your bike's stock turn signals interfere with your chosen location of the saddlebag. Saddlebags should not contact turn signals or interfere with their use. If you do not need to relocate your turn signals, you can discard the bracket that is included in this kit (Fig. J).

**NOTE:** Due to the large diversity of motorcycles, we have not tried to write a specific set of instructions for every bike. Most installations will be very similar to these instructions which apply to most Harley Davidson models (Fig. K)

1. Disconnect the battery, and remove the tail light lens. (NOTE: Many metric bikes use turn signal wire terminals located under the seat)
2. Trace wires from turn signal lights and unplug from tail light terminal.
3. Push wires back through the fender holes, and free them from clips, etc, to the turn signal lights.
4. Remove the bolt holding the turn signal lights and carefully remove wire through hole.
5. Remove the license from the license plate bracket.



6. Remove the three screws holding the license plate bracket to the fender.

### Turn Signal Relocation Bracket Installation (continued)

7. Using the ¼ inch screws, and nuts attach the supplied turn signal bracket and the license plate to the license plate bracket. The turn signal bracket should be on the forward side, and turned so the ears will be pointing toward the front of the motorcycle, placed under the license plate.

8. Using the 5/16 x 2 ¾ button head screws supplied attach the turn signal lights to the bracket. The wires will thread through the larger hole, the bolt through the other.

9. Most Harley Davidson Motorcycles have a fourth hole through the fender in the same pattern as the three attachment screw holes. If your motorcycle is missing this hole, you may need to drill a hole in the pattern of the three holes for the wires to pass through. **WARNING:** Take care not to drill into your tire and smooth the edges of the hole.

10. If the wire plug will not fit through the extra hole in the fender, you can cut the wires two inches from the plugs and reattach them to the cut off part after passing them through the hole, or enlarge the hole enough to allow the plugs to pass through.

11. Reattach the license plate bracket to the fender using the stock screws, but install the three 1/8" spacers supplied between the bracket and fender on all three screws, routing the wires neatly between the bracket and the fender.

12. Finish routing the wire plugs to their original locations inside the tail light assembly. You can coil and tape the extra wire inside the tail light.

13. Connect the battery, and check to see that all the lights are working correctly.

14. Replace tail light cover.

## FEATURES

**QUICK RELEASE YOKE ATTACHMENT** Saddlebags are attached to the yoke with a heavy-duty zipper, so the bags are easily removed. A top handle is included for ease of carrying.

**REMOVABLE YOKE FOR HARD MOUNT OPTIONS** If you like the look of rigid-mounted saddlebags, you can completely remove the yokes on these bags by taking off the small nuts and bolts that secure yoke to bag (Fig. C).

**LOCKABLE YOKE ZIPPER** The zipper on the mounting yoke is lockable. For safety and security, we recommend that the yoke zippers be locked at all times, when the saddlebags are on the motorcycle. Place the pad lock thru both the zipper pull and D-Ring (see figure L). Once locked, saddlebags cannot be removed by unzipping.

**PAD LOCK KEYS** The chrome padlocks (for the saddlebags chrome buckles and yoke zipper locks) are the same key. The black Quick-Release buckles have their own key. Tape a spare key for both locks to a business card and keep in your wallet.

**FLIP-FORWARD DESIGN** The saddlebag lids flip forward for opening, making it easier to load and unload your gear.

**FULLY RIGID CONSTRUCTION** Strong, durable construction means that these bags won't deform when loaded, and will look good either empty or full.

**INTERNAL MESH POUCHES** Keep your small things organized in these handy mesh pockets.

## CARE AND CLEANING

Your Saddlemen saddlebags require almost no maintenance, but to keep them looking good, here's what we recommend:

1. Simply wipe down the bag with a clean, damp cloth, but to really make them shine use Saddlemen Seat and Saddlebag Wash, part number 3101, and Saddlemen Seat and Saddlebag Conditioner, part number 3102, both available through your local dealer.
2. Keep the saddlebags away from extreme heat sources like your bike's exhaust pipes.

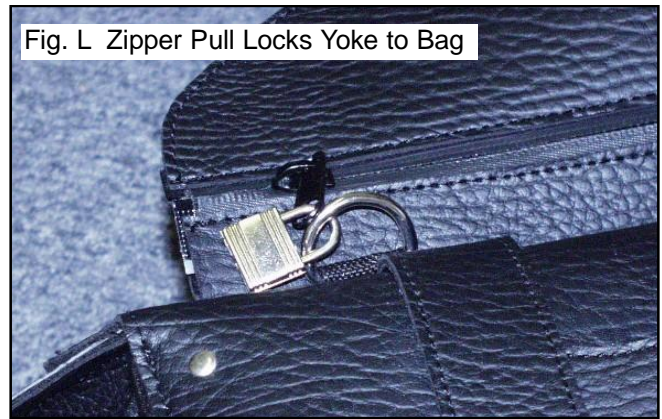


Fig. L Zipper Pull Locks Yoke to Bag

### SADDLEMEN'S ONE-YEAR WARRANTY

We guarantee our products for a period of one year after retail purchase, against defects in materials and workmanship. Damage caused by improper use or incorrect mounting is not warranted. Our warranty has other provisions and conditions; please contact Saddlemen for full details. If your product is not performing to your expectations, please call us directly and our customer service staff will be happy to help. You can count on Saddlemen's quality, innovation, service and style.

400201 Teardrop Universal Instructions