

MAC Tools Protective Socket Set

BECAUSE DECORATIVE HARDWARE is so common on motorcycles, and virtually mandatory on customs of all kinds, from cruisers to tricked-out sportbikes, the problem of protecting plated or painted fasteners from inadvertent tool damage can be a serious issue. However, MAC Tools has now produced a unique range of sockets to address this problem, and we think many of you will find them irresistible. Called, appropriately enough, Protective Sockets, the tools are based around a composite material called PPS which is formed into six-point hex inserts that are pressed into high-quality chromed tool-steel shells. Ideal to prevent scrapes or deformation of chromed, power-coated, anodized, cadmium-plated, black-oxide or phosphate-coated fasteners, your expensive hardware can now stay bright and attractive.

Naturally, the PPS material has strength limits lower than tool steel and the protective sockets should not be used with impact wrenches. To make proper use easier, the maximum torque that can be used with each size is laser-etched on the side of the socket, together with the MAC Tools logo, part number and the size. We found the various torque limits perfectly appropriate for the size of the fasteners (i.e.: 10mm–20 lb./ft., 14mm–50 lb./ft., 17mm–90



lb./ft.), although we must admit, we've found some factory installed hardware torqued so tight that we'd need to resort to standard steel sockets to get them loose.

The sets come in various sizes, and the most popular should be the 9-piece SAE set ($\frac{3}{8}$ ", $\frac{7}{16}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{9}{16}$ ", $\frac{5}{8}$ ", $\frac{11}{16}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ ", $\frac{7}{8}$ ", $\frac{15}{16}$ ", SSPX96CR) which will cover most Harley applications (minus the metric V-Rod series) and the 12-piece Metric set (8mm–19mm, SSPX126MCR) for almost

everything else. The metric sockets are all semi-deep-well types, which should work in all but the tightest spaces. Also, the inserts project slightly beyond the shells, to protect the surfaces below the flats from damage as well. They are also available for custom wheel nuts in two-piece sets: $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $\frac{13}{16}$ " deep-well (SSPXD26CR) or 19mm and 21mm deep-well (SSPXD26MCR) for \$51.99 per set.

Very attractive, they come with an attached socket holder and are much stronger than the plastic inserts we've tried (which drop into larger size sockets to make "soft jaws"). Although the sets are not cheap, neither is all that trick hardware you'd like to remain shiny and trick-looking. The 12-piece Metric set sells for \$228.95 but also carries a solid lifetime warranty.

—Dave Searle
MAC Tools—See your local MAC Tools distributor or call (800) MAC-Tools

Cyclecat UCS1 Rear Stand

CONVENTIONAL REAR STANDS have a critical problem: Unless the user can carefully balance the motorcycle while installing the stand behind it, the bike can tip over in the process—*Ouch!!*\$.

The UCS1 is different. On the left upright is the traditional arrangement of a single wheel and a fixed upright. However, on the right is a joint that allows the top of the upright to pivot while being supported by a double set of wheels for stability—allowing the entire rear stand to lean and match the angle of a bike on its sidestand. To lift the rear of the bike, simply lean the stand into position on the swingarm and then push down on the long handle of the stand. *Voila*, the stand magically lifts the bike off its side-

stand and onto the rear stand. Suddenly the drama of solo-lifting a bike is eliminated.

Constructed of power-coated steel tubing, as they say, "some assembly is required"—actually over 25 pieces, but that's simple with the included instructions.

Cyclecat's rear stand is particularly useful for any rider who doesn't want or need the grief that can accompany lifting the rear of the bike solo. My wife managed to use the UCS1 after a mere 30 seconds worth of instruction, a feat she still refuses to attempt with any of my traditional rear stands. (Now if I could only talk her into cleaning and lubing her own chain!) However, the UCS1 isn't designed for those that are financially challenged. It retails for \$225, or about \$100



more than conventional rear stands. But just ask yourself if at least \$100 worth of damage wouldn't result from one tipover?

—LT Snyder
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