

What Time Do You Have?

Keeping up with time is always a challenge.

We have wrist watches, alarm clocks, and even scheduling capabilities on our cell phones. Well, believe it or not, your KX motorcycle should have time keeping equipment as well. I'm not talking about a timepiece, but an "hour meter". If you've taken the time to look at the maintenance schedule in the owner's manual for your KX, you've seen that maintenance items are scheduled in terms of "hours" or "races". "Back in the day", Kawasaki only posted maintenance schedules in terms of "races".

This was rather confusing because KX owners compete in various forms of racing. A three hour GNCC is considered a race, as is a five lap Arenacross qualifier. To add consistency to the term "race," Kawasaki has defined a "race" as 2 hours of operating time. This actually makes it extremely easy to keep up with the maintenance requirements that are listed in the maintenance section of your owner's manual.

An item that not only serves as an "hour meter," but a "tachometer" as well can be purchased through an authorized

Kawasaki dealer. This device is called a "Tiny Tach" and Kawasaki's part number for this item is K56019-051. The device is easy to install as you only have to remove the seat, radiator shrouds, and fuel tank.

First, find a location on the frame where the device can be mounted. You can use cable ties, heavy duty Velcro, or a suitable adhesive to secure the unit to the frame. The hour meter has a lead that is relatively long, so you should be able to mount it in any desirable location on the frame.

For the KX250F and KX450F, we typically mount them on the upper frame spar above the right side radiator. If you choose to mount yours in this same area, make sure you have space to easily remove and tighten the radiator cap. We then run the lead under the spar and attach the ground lead to the existing ground for the electrical system's wiring harness. The next step is to run the hour meter's harness beside the ignition harness down the left side frame spar and wrap the red lead around the ignition coil lead about 3 or 4 times. We also make a wrap around the top of the spark plug cap. This completes the installation process for this hour meter. Now, just install the tank, radiator shrouds and seat and you're good to go!

Keeping time on your bike's operation with an hour meter will allow you to be "on time" with regard to your scheduled maintenance needs for your KX. Now, when someone asks what time it is, you'll probably think in terms of bike maintenance! ■

