

FITCH'S FUEL CATALYST DELIVERS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILLY BARTELS

To be honest, we were a bit skeptical when we first received word of the Fitch Fuel Catalyst. In the literature it's claimed to increase horsepower and fuel economy, reduce emissions and carbon buildup, aid in starting, prolong engine life and turn lead into gold. OK, we made up the last part, but to our ears, any product that was guaranteed to do all these things and last the life of the bike was too good to be true.

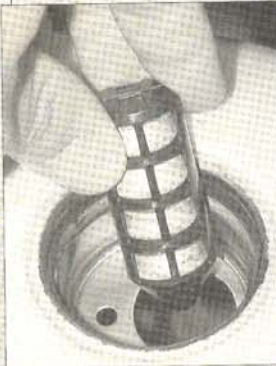
The theory behind the Fitch unit is that pump gas is made up of long, complex hydrocarbon chains, and that their catalyst forms even-length



chains, reversing the natural degradation of fuel. To use a gastronomical analogy, it makes them easier to digest. By this logic, you can theoretically use lower octane gas, that will then burn like it were a more expensive blend. The catalyst is designed to homogenize (via the catalyst) the heavier and lighter elements of the fuel mix so that fuel burns consistently at the same rate.

So, we ordered a set of the little gems to test. What can we say? Our fears were unfounded. While the benefits we experienced were less than what was claimed in some of the testimonials on their Web site, they were significant nevertheless. We didn't have hard starting on our long-term 2001 EFI Fat Boy (which was used to test the catalyst), and if you do, you may need to have your bike looked at. Some of the other claims were also difficult to investigate, so we stuck to the ones that would be readily apparent to us: fuel economy and horsepower.

GOOD CHEMISTRY



Over the course of a couple weeks of riding, average fuel economy went from 27mpg (city driving) before the

test to 29 immediately, then ultimately to 33, where it stabilized. The dyno charts speak for themselves, with a small gain in horsepower at one point in the rev range, but a small loss of torque overall. Altogether nothing ground-shaking, but it is worth noting that our other Twin Cam B bike lost on the order of four horsepower over 4,000 miles, and this bike has 1,900 miles on it. HRB

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