



GreaseSpot - Rear Axle Tightening / Maintaining Chain Tension

The purpose of the 'GreaseSpot' is to share ideas and tips on 'two wheel vehicle' maintenance (Bicycle and Motorcycle). Questions, ideas and tips come from our fellow riders, and they can be on most any topic of maintenance. GreaseSpot #10 focused on Off Season Battery Storage; if you would like us to resend this GreaseSpot just let us know (info@greaseininja.com)

This GreaseSpot Tip was received from Alan in Ireland regarding tightening the rear axle while maintaining the set chain Tension.

Alan's Tip:

"I found that on my bike (2002 GSXR 1000 K2), after I had the chain tension perfect ,when I tightened the wheel the chain would tighten slightly...so I always had to leave it a little loose and hope tightening the wheel would leave it perfect.

Then I realized that because Suzuki installed the rear axle with the nut on the left hand side...when I tightened the nut clockwise it tended to slightly pull the wheel away from the chain adjuster block (tightening the chain due to the way the Suzuki one works).

I wondered if I changed the axle around the other way would my problem go away. **It did!** Basically with the axle reversed, when I tighten the nut the tendency would be for the wheel to try move forward....but it is then pushing against the adjuster block and can't alter from where I want it.

I checked online and European bikes have the axle one way/USA bikes the other and apparently no problem reversing the axle to fix this issue and save the cost of buying Gilles fully adjustable chain adjusters if this is the only problem you wanted to cure."