

Memphis Shades

by Rachel Howland #16981

In the spring, I ordered a windshield for my Harley Fat Boy. I was trying to save money, and bought an after market windshield through J&P Cycles. When the windshield arrived, there was one page, front and back, of instructions. I read the instructions and cringed. I went through all the parts to make sure none were missing. That was a little intimidating. The parts list was just that; a list. It would have helped if there were at least drawings. Like I know the difference between a rod holder and a center socket rod collar. After I laid out all the parts, I went to the other side of the page for installation instructions. There were five points and three very poor pictures. The instructions were terrible. I went to the web site hoping for further instructions. It was the same page. The only saving thing was the pictures were easier to see, which from there I figured out I had the rod/plate assemblies on backwards. I did a lot of guess work. I went through several motorcycle magazines and catalogs looking for pictures that resembled what I had. Here is an example of points 2 and 3: "Hold the windshield up in the desired position so you can see where to mount the handlebar clamps." That was it for point 2. Point 3 wasn't any better. Point 5, told me to tighten the clamps. Oh, really? Like I couldn't figure that one out on my own. This was definitely a two person job and I'm running a one woman show. I was proud of myself though, I did get the windshield attached to the handlebars with no help from the instructions. I had my 9 year old daughter hold things in place a few times. I was going to take it for a spin. I started the bike in all it's loud and vibrating glory, and noticed that the windshield looked a little crooked. In fact, the windshield looked like it was capable of rattling off a few miles down the road. I made some adjustments, re-tightened things up, and then I dropped a button nut. To make matters worse, the garage gremlin ate it. I was so mad. I called Memphis Shades and ordered another button nut. I got everything put back on and it still just didn't look sturdy. My husband was going to be home on leave soon. I decided to wait to have him tighten it up for me. While tightening everything up, he stripped a screw. At that point, he proceeded to get in the truck, drive to the Harley shop, and purchase a 3 times more expensive windshield that had great instructions and took less than 5 minutes to install. I have decided that sometimes saving some money is a bigger headache.