

K (and similar R) Bike System Case "Round" Latches/Locks Removal and Installation

Introduction

Occasionally it is necessary to remove a system case lock to replace it or firm up a loose one. (Sometimes the latch that holds the case to the "Z" rack will become loose if the bike is dropped on that side. If you ever have a getoff or drop then that latch may come all of the way off of the case so be sure to look around for it before leaving the scene.)

System Case locks are held onto the cases using standard rivets. It pretty easy as a DIY (do it yourself) task to remove and reinstall the locks at home using a drill and a pop rivet gun available from your local hardware store for about \$20.



Removal

The easiest way I've found to get the old rivets out is to open the case and drill out the old rivets from behind with a small drill bit.

Two things to be careful about when doing this:

- 1) **Overheating the rivet and melting the plastic hole in the case.** Drills generate friction and heat. If the rivet gets too hot then it can melt the plastic hole in the case. You can either pour water on the rivet while drilling or just go very slowly and take a break now and then when drilling out the rivet to keep things from overheating.
- 2) **Rivet spins while drilling.** Either hold the drill at an angle or use your other hand or maybe a small screwdriver to hold the lock away from the case on the outside in order to keep the rivet from spinning.

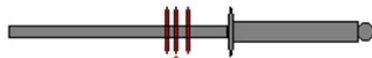
Once you've drilled all of the rivets out from inside the case then the lock will come off. Often the remaining ends of the rivets will be left in the lock assembly. Open the lock and use an ice pick or similar tool to push them out.

Installation

Installing new rivets with a pop rivet gun is a straightforward task. If you have never used one before then you might want to search YouTube for pop rivet demo videos.

Rivet Size: The rivets I've found best for this task are 1/8" diameter with a grip range of 3/16"-1/4".

Washers: On Gen 3 cases, some of the rivet holes for the locks are recessed which can make it so that the head of the pop rivet tool will not go in all of the way. To deal with this, I use pop rivet washers:



For the latches that hold the case closed, put washers on the rivet shaft to keep the tool from pulling the rivet body back

Steel vs. Aluminum Rivets: Some people prefer aluminum rivets since they don't corrode but others prefer steel rivets since steel is stronger than aluminum. Take your pick.

When installing the rivets:

- 1) Hold the lock flush and firmly to the outside of the case.
- 2) Hold the rivet gun as perpendicular as possible and press down firmly on it while squeezing to "pop" the rivet in place.

This may take some practice but don't worry. If you're unhappy with the results then just drill out the new rivets and try again.