

HOW TO LAP VALVES

By
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The following steps describe how to lap the valves on a 4-cylinder 1981 GS550T; however the procedures are fairly straight forward and will work on all GS series bikes. You should only have to perform these steps if you are tearing down the top end and not for normal maintenance. You can purchase a lapping tool at any automotive parts store, Harbor Freight, or you can make your own. These procedures use a home-made tool that can be made from items in your garage.

To make a home-made tool using a bolt and a small section of breather hose, place the head inside the hose and chuck the threaded portion into a corded drill:



Using a fine grit lapping compound, spread a thin layer around the edge of the valve:



Holding the bottom of the valve with a shop cloth and an index finger, place the tool against the head of the valve, spinning at a reasonable speed. By pushing down on the valve and up against the stem, the friction will spin the valve against the seat.



When finished, inspect the seat and valve to determine if additional time is needed. You should see a shiny edge around the valve seat on both sides and very little if any pitting. Be sure to check the head area at different angles with a flashlight for best results.



