

## How To Search The GSR Forums

This guide is to give the reader basic instruction in using the search feature in the GSR forum. Granted, the search feature in the forum is not the most intelligent or convenient but can be very useful. Let's start with the basic screen and its features. I always use the Advanced Search function and arrive there by clicking on the Search link then the Advanced Search link:



That brings us to the main Advanced Search page:

A screenshot of the main Advanced Search page. The page is titled 'Search Forums' and has a blue header. It is divided into several sections. The top section has two input fields: 'Search by Keyword' with a 'Keyword(s):' label and a 'Search Entire Posts' dropdown (marked with a red '1'), and 'Search by User Name' with a 'User Name:' label and a 'Find Posts by User' dropdown with an 'Exact name' checkbox (marked with a red '2'). Below this is a 'Search Options' section with a blue header. It contains several sub-sections: 'Find Threads with' with a dropdown set to 'At Least' and a '0 Replies' field (marked with a red '3'); 'Find Posts from' with a dropdown set to 'Any Date' and an 'and Newer' dropdown; 'Sort Results by' with a dropdown set to 'Last Posting Date' and an 'in Descending Order' dropdown; 'Show Results as' with radio buttons for 'Threads' (selected) and 'Posts'; 'Search by Tag' with a 'Tag:' input field; and 'Search in Forum(s)' with a list of forum categories (marked with a red '4') and a checked 'Also search in child forums' checkbox. At the bottom of the page are buttons for 'Search Now', 'Reset Fields', 'Save Search Preferences', and 'Go'.

1. This is the Keyword area. The search feature uses Boolean modifiers by default. If you type more than one word it will default to “and” between them and search for all instances that contain all the words. There is no “exact phrase” feature that I’ve noticed.

2. If you recall the member’s name who posted about that which you are searching, you can search for that person’s posts which contain your keywords, or threads started by that person (use the pull-down menu).

3. These search modifiers I usually leave alone so that it returns the most results, with the most recent results on the top. You can modify these if you want fewer results because know that you are searching for something fairly recent or fairly old.

4. This section specifies what part of the forum you'd like to search. You can search the entire forum, a category, or a specific section. The check box will allow you to search child forums, all forums under the "Featured Forums" category for example. Highlight by clicking the part(s) you wish to search. Using <Ctrl>+click will choose several sections to search simultaneously.

I rarely use the "Tag" feature because so few posts are tagged. Perhaps as more posts get tagged this will become more useful. Because searching titles is more efficient, another thing that will make the search more useful is if the posters would title their threads and posts more accurately. I've seen so many posts that are titled "What's going on here?" or "What do I do now?" which are not very good at explaining what the actual problems, symptoms, or solutions are.

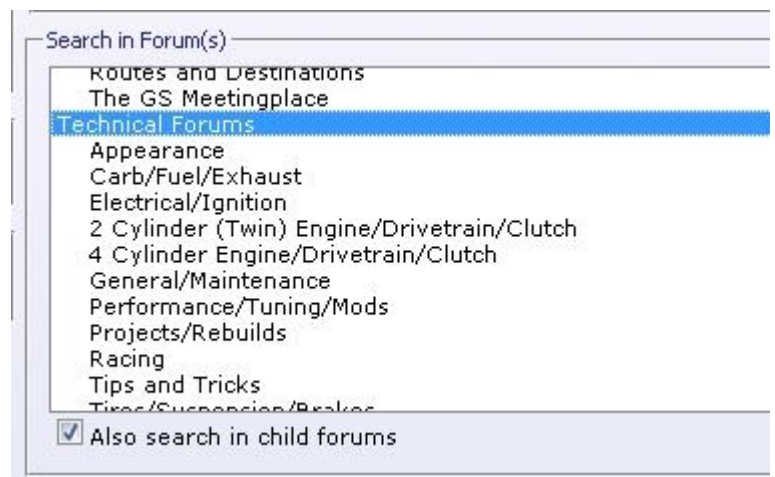
As was brought up in a recent thread, let's search for engine number information. I always start with a title search. If that doesn't yeild adequate results then we must resort to searching entire posts. Searching entire posts can yeild an overwhelming number of irrelevant posts so it's best if you search one forum section at a time. When searching by "titles only" the returns will be fewer and more relevant, but you can miss posts with good information.

From our Advanced Search screen (area 1), type the words 'engine numbers' in the search field. Use the pull-down menu under it to choose "Titles Only".







Because of the nature of this search, I'm going to search only the Technical sections. In the "Search in Forum(s)" section (area 4) scroll down and click on 'Technical Forums'. Make sure there is a check in the "Also search in child forums" check box to search all the tech sections.

Press the 'Search Now' button.



This is the result returned for this search:

Search: Keyword(s): <u>engine, numbers</u> ; Forum: <u>Technical Forums</u> and child forums					Showing results 1 to 4 of 4 Search took 8.78 seconds; generated 11 minute(s) ago.	
	Thread / Thread Starter	Last Post	Replies	Views	Forum	
	<a href="#">Question about engine numbers</a> qslim	11-16-2010 10:17 AM by <a href="#">qslim</a>	<u>2</u>	49	<a href="#">4 Cylinder Engine/Drivetrain/Clutch</a>	
	<a href="#">Should engine and frame numbers match?</a> Anonymous	06-10-2005 02:23 PM by <a href="#">duaneage</a>	<u>2</u>	73	<a href="#">Old Technical Info Forum</a>	
	<a href="#">engine numbers... compatible?</a> Anonymous	04-12-2005 04:38 AM by <a href="#">moto dan</a>	<u>4</u>	74	<a href="#">Old Technical Info Forum</a>	
	<a href="#">Engine Serial Numbers 83 GS1100E</a> Anonymous	11-02-2002 06:59 PM by <a href="#">Anonymous</a>	<u>4</u>	107	<a href="#">Old Technical Info Forum</a>	

I'm sure there are a lot more posts about engine numbers in the forums but perhaps they are not titled as such, or they are in a different section of the forum. You can expand your search to the entire GSR forum by clicking on 'Search All Open Forums' in the "Search in Forum(s)" section (area 4).

By experimenting with different words (in this example, perhaps "engine number" instead of "engine numbers"), searching entire posts in a single forum section, etc, you can get manageable results that are more accurate. Searching all posts in the entire forum for "oil" would return a ridiculous amount of results. Even after refining your search criteria you may have to read through quite a few posts to find the information you're looking for. But chances are that it's already there in the forum if you take the time to look for it.

If you just can't find it, or don't want to take the time to search for it, go ahead and ask a question in the appropriate forum. Be prepared for responses that vary between 'very helpful' to "Why don't you search, you lazy bum?" That's the nature of the internet. But I think you'll find that the majority of the GSR members are very helpful and friendly. Most of us believe in "teaching a man to fish" rather than just "giving a man a fish". Raising the competency level of all members is something to be desired. We enjoy keeping these vintage machines on the road and helping each other to do so.

Thank you for your indulgence,

BassCliff

<http://members.dslextreme.com/users/bikecliff>

<http://www.thegsresources.com>

<http://www.thegsresources.com/forum>