

Simple Coil Repair – by BassCliff

On my way to work one day my GS850GT lost power a few blocks from home. I was able to ride it home. Yes, I had to drive my truck to work most of the week. Bleh.

When I had time to do some troubleshooting, I pulled the spark plug wires one at a time and used an extra spare spark plug to check for spark in each cylinder. To check for spark, just pull the spark plug wire, connect the external spark plug, then lay the spark plug on the head (to ground it). Hit the starter and look for a spark between the electrodes. Don't touch the spark plug while you're testing. I found out my bike was not firing on cylinders 1 and 4. This pointed me toward the left coil (the right coil fires #2 and #3). I then took off the tank, disconnected the left coil and found this...



The 12v supply wire to the coil had broken loose. I wasn't sure if I could re-attach it or if I had to buy new coils. I decided to clean it up and find out. After I cleaned the area I found there was some epoxy over the connection. I carefully chipped it away with an exacto knife and discovered the solder terminal underneath.



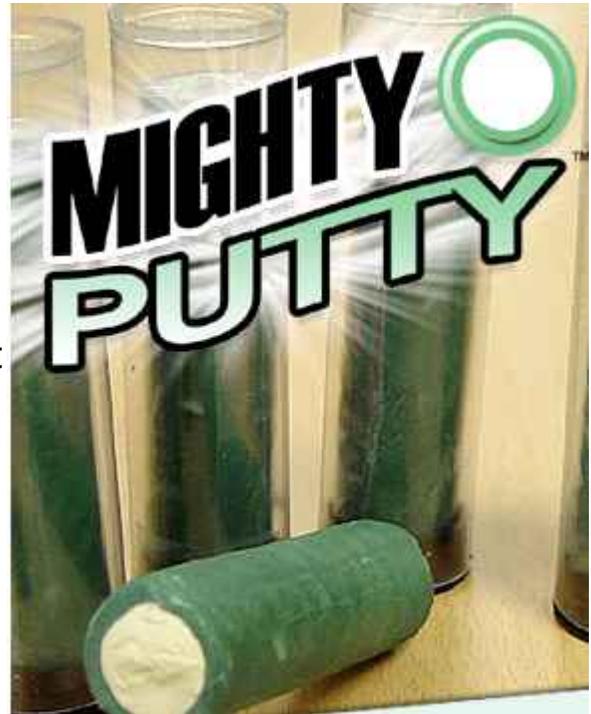
It seems that some Suzuki coils are different than others. Some coils have spade connectors, some have solder terminals. I got out my trusty soldering iron to clean up the terminal.

I un-soldered (de-soldered?) the terminal, removed the broken bits of wire, stripped and tinned the coil wire, and re-soldered it back onto the terminal.



OK, the connection is good. Now I need to support it somehow, some kind of strain relief so that it is less susceptible to vibration or pulling.

I happened to have a little tube of that green and white epoxy, the kind that you slice off a piece, knead it together, and then stick it to what you are fixing. It's like the Mighty Putty that Billy Mays used to sell. But you can buy similar stuff in just about any hardware store.



I let the epoxy dry, reattached the coils and the tank, and my Jessie fired right up and ran great. I was so happy that I gave her a bath so that she not only was running good but was looking good too!



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Thank you for your indulgence,

BassCliff