

Front Brake Securing Bolts

Safety Warning---February 09

It is wise to check that your bike has a sufficiently secure mounting for the front brake (Allen Key mounting; calliper brakes). The brake is normally secured by a 5mm Allen Key socket hollow bolt, accessed from the back of the fork crown.

Front brakes on traditional steel forks were secured by a bolt between 1.0cm and 1.2cm length when measured from inside the head to the brake securing end (ie the straight bit of the bolt). Whilst perfectly adequate for traditional forks, this is insufficient length for most modern forks, which tend to be much thicker at the crown than traditional steel. Thus, in the latter case, the brake could be only secured by a couple of turns of the short hollow bolt and could rip off under stress with potential dire consequences.

Most modern, wider forks need a bolt of approx 2.0cm length when measured from inside the head to the brake securing end. This is even more necessary when a mudguard is attached as this spaces the fork crown even wider.

Please check your bike to ensure that your front brake securing bolt is safe.

If you are not sure how to carry out this check yourself, then ask a mechanically competent colleague or go to your local bike shop.

A range of longer bolts is available from good stockists.

Safe Riding to All

ps Even though bolt length is less likely to be a safety issue at the rear, could be an idea to check you rear brake bolt as well---just to be on the safe side