

PRODUCT REVIEW: KettenMax Chain Maintenance System



By Darryl Oakley



The KettenMax chain maintenance system is a relatively simple collection of two plastic “reservoirs” that clamp around the motorcycle chain. The kit also includes an assortment of clear plastic tubes, metal hooks, string and a plastic bottle. Inside two “reservoirs” are sturdy brushes that scrub the chain while cleaner (or lubricant - depending on what stage of chain maintenance you are at) soaks through. Also, before you start, you will need to trim the scrub brushes to fit your chain, this takes about ten minutes.

So how well does the KettenMax work? Pretty good actually, although give yourself some time for set up the first time you use it. At first I tried using diesel (placed in the supplied plastic bottle) to clean the chain. The diesel process did not work too well. The diesel cleaned the top and sides of the chain but lots of debris remained on the rollers and O-rings (even after rotating the chain through the KettenMax five times). The diesel also did not drain from the lower tub very well and

instead dripped off the chain as it exited the KettenMax. Once I switched to WD-40 and slowed the wheel rotation down, things worked much better. The WD-40 flushed most of the dirt and grime from the O-rings – which, to me, is the whole point here - the O-rings need to be clean. I actually got a magnifying glass and a bright light for a closer look. My estimate is that about 10% of grime was left on the O-rings. Having removed 90% of the grime is pretty amazing I think! I certainly don't think I can get that much off using my Grunge Brush.

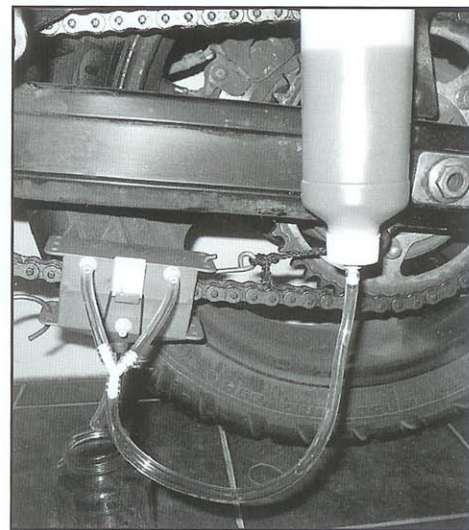
After waiting for fifteen minutes for the WD-40 solvents to evaporate, I used the supplied tubes to spray chain lube into the top box of the KettenMax, while slowly rotating the chain. This process worked very well and after two chain rotations my motorcycle chain was clean and evenly lubed.

If you position the KettenMax properly, use the proper cleaner and lube, turn the wheel slowly and consistently, you should be able to get the job done within ten to fifteen minutes. Plus, if done right, your work space should remain clean – something I really can't brag about when I use my Grunge Brush.

Summary

You will need to be patient while getting used to the KettenMax. However, once you find the right anchoring locations, proper cleaning solvent, and your preferred

lube, and the proper speed at which to run the chain through the KettenMax, you will be pleasantly surprised at how well this simple tool works. Yes it is more expensive than a Grunge Brush, but it is for a different application. The Grunge Brush is for a quick cleaning, the KettenMax should be part of your workshop and used for a much more thorough cleaning (and lubing!) of your motorcycle chain. Also



the KettenMax will help you to keep your workspace clean.

For further information see the Adventurers Workshop Kettenmax ad in this issue of the magazine, call Adventurers Workshop at 973-258-0034, or visit www.adventurersworkshop.com.