

CLUTCH PERFORMANCE TIPS

There are a few tips and tricks that can help you get maximum performance from your machine's clutch. The most important is to always keep it clean and dry, but here are a couple others as well.

1: Typically when a clutch is taken out or changes are made, the bushings, belt and clutch halves can be a little grabby when reinstalled, and for the first couple of rides, you can expect them to react a little abruptly as they settle in. To get maximum power, the belt should ride all the way up to the top of the sheave for full shift out. A quick way to check if your machine is shifting all the way out only requires a Sharpie marker. Draw a few lines on the primary clutch surface extending out from the center shaft all the way to the edge of the sheave. When the belt rides up on the clutch, it will wear the marker off, and after a few top end runs, take the cover back off and see how far up the sheave your belt has been riding. It's a quick and easy way to tell if your clutch has been shifting all the way out. If the belt is not riding all the way up the sheave at maximum RPM, chances are you need a new belt.

2: For years, snowmobile riders have been de-glazing the clutch halves with a scouring pad or very fine sanding pad. Basically, you want to remove built-up rubber or grime and give the belt a fresh surface to work against. VERY LIGHTLY and evenly scour the aluminum. Whatever you do, don't take a disc sander and leave a quarter inch groove in the clutch face.

3. When removing the clutch halves, an impact wrench will spin the nuts off the primary and secondary clutch, but it's not necessarily a great idea to simply spin them off NASCAR-style. The clutch springs will likely still have pressure and could come off with enough force to give you a moment you won't soon forget (and the scar to remember it). Back the bolts off about halfway, and then remove slowly.

4. When installing the belt, pay attention to directional arrows on new belts, and reinstall used belts in the same direction they came off.

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