

PRODUCT REVIEW BY CHRIS MAIDA

FATZ BIKE TOW HITCH

An easy way to pull your bike behind your car or truck

WHILE OUT IN STURGIS FOR THE BIG HOO-HA I ran into Boston Jim at the Sturgis Convention Center. He had just towed his bike out to the rally using a front-wheel hitch called the Fatz Motorcycle Tow Bracket. Being the Northeast distributor for Fatz, Jim (508/852-6163) asked that we do a review of the hitch, which — obviously — we agreed to do.

The Fatz, which weighs around 92 pounds and fits a multitude of H-D models, is built like it's for towing trucks instead of bikes. The Fatz, once assembled, slides into the Class 2 receiver on the back of your car or truck. The front wheel support pivots on a huge

bearing, so the bike turns with the tow vehicle rather than tilt like on other tow bars. The whole unit takes about an hour to assemble and rig for your bike. Once that's done, it takes about 10 minutes to load or unload your bike. When the bike is off the Fatz, the hitch can stay attached to the car's receiver, or you can just pull the pin, slip it out, and pop it into the trunk.

There are a couple of minor and easy-to-do changes you have to make to the bike to use the Fatz. First, you have to remove the rear footpegs, so you can attach the two rear Fatz supports. Second, you have to swap out the front axle nut with one supplied by Fatz, so both sides of the front axle can be secured to the Fatz using the supplied turnbuckle assemblies.



So how did it work? Great! We hooked up Sam's Dyna, which we "borrowed" from his garage while he was away on a trip, and hauled his bike around for the day behind the American Iron Magazine/RoadBike pickup truck. The Fatz worked fine, and the bike was returned to Sam's garage in the same shape as when we took it from him without his permission. AIM

SOURCES

Fatz Tow Hitches
1018 Avenue M, Dept. AIM
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
800/575-2340
www.Fatz.com