

TECH BY JOE KNEZEVIC

TAILGUNNER EXHAUST

Installing the B-52 Jet-Pipe slip-on mufflers

SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY FANS OF THE new wave band The B-52s and their hit song Love Shack. Others are probably fans of the US Air Force's long-range, strategic heavy bomber, the B-52 Stratofortress. After reading this story, I bet some of you will become fans of Tailgunner Exhaust's newest creation: the B-52 Jet-Pipes.

Having already made a name for itself with its Gunship exhaust, Tailgunner decided to expand its offerings with the B-52 Jet-Pipe slip-on mufflers. These pipes feature sleek, new, axial-flow, dual-stage, static (nonspinning) turbines. Polished thrust-cones at the ends of the pipes are housed in a machined, solid-billet nacelle, complete with high-bypass ventilation holes for authentic styling. These massive 4" diameter slip-on exhausts are a direct bolt-on for 1986-2008 Harley Touring models. Simply put, the B-52s will fit any Road King, Electra Glide, Street Glide, or Road Glide made since 1986. All Tailgunner pipes are handcrafted in the United States with prices starting at \$795. You also have your choice of finish: You can get the muffler body in show-quality chrome stem-to-stern stealth black. Both come with the end cap in pol-

ished aluminum. Although it doesn't affect the price, the B-52s are available with or without full-length baffles.

Since these Jet-Pipes are slip-ons, there's no denying the fact that they're easy to install. To make our life even easier (Okay, call us lazy), we brought the pipes down to our friends at New Roc Harley-Davidson, where we got access to a 2007 Road King. To get the job done, we commandeered our favorite New Roc mechanic, Dave Segal.

As usual, things went smoothly, as they should for you. However, there are several points you need to keep in mind when doing this installation. First, there is a left and right muffler. The easiest way to be sure you've got them correct is to always keep the company badge to the outside (facing out) of the muffler. Second, Tailgunner suggests reusing all the stock hardware, including all clamps and bolts. If you're going to that, Dave recommends that you inspect all the hardware for corro-

1 Our opening shot shows a stock 2007 Road King up on the lift and ready to receive a set of Tailgunner B-52 mufflers.



2 Our man Dave begins this easy install by unscrewing the lock pins inside the saddlebag, so he can lift the bags up and off the bike. Carefully set them aside so they don't get scratched.



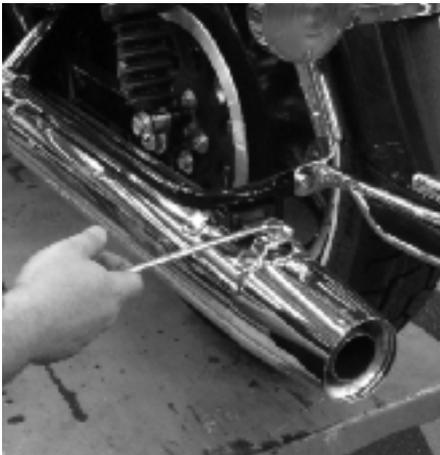
3 Using a 9/16" socket, Dave removes the clamp that holds the stock muffler to the header pipe. It doesn't matter which muffler you do first.



6 Remove the clamp from the muffler, taking care to inspect it for wear and corrosion. If it's damaged in any way, replace it.



9 If there is a gap, which is not the norm, use washers to close it. Then loosely bolt the muffler to the stock bracket using the stock hardware, a little blue Loctite, and a 1/2" wrench.



4 Using a 1/2" wrench, Dave removes the two bolts that hold the rear of the stock muffler to the stock mounting bracket.



7 Slip the stock clamp onto the new B-52 muffler. Note the alignment of the clamp. You may want to rotate the pipe to hide the bolt on the clamp.



10 After measuring where each muffler bolts to the bracket to ensure that one is not sticking farther out than the other, fully tighten the muffler bracket bolts.



5 The muffler can now be pulled off its header pipe. You may have to shimmy the muffler from side to side a bit before it comes loose, but it should slip right off.



8 After sliding the B-52 muffler onto the stock header pipe, Dave checks for a gap between the stock rear muffler bracket and the muffler. Do the same for the other muffler.



11 Tighten the muffler-to-header pipe clamp bolt using a 9/16" socket.

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12 Clean all dirt, oil, and fingerprints off both B-52 mufflers before firing up the motor, or the pipes will be stained permanently.



13 Reinstall the saddlebags using the mounting screws on the inside of each bag.



14 Here's how our Road King looks once the job is done. AIM

sion and wear, especially the clamps. Obviously, replace any parts that are in question.

Overall, the B-52 Jet-Pipes are a simple way to change the look and sound of your bike. After they were on the Road King, some people said that the B-52 mufflers made the bike look like it was flying. While I'll personally refrain from commenting about that, you've got to admit these pipes give the exhaust that classic jet-engine look.

SOURCES

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