

Product Evaluation: Bike Gear EZ-Cruz Throttle Lock



The small Allen wrench (included) is for adjusting the thumbwheel tension grub screw.

The thought of having to hold the throttle grip steady for extremely long periods of time is enough to kill the buzz of planning a long trip on your bike. Few bikes (like the Kawasaki Voyager reviewed on page 30) have genuine electronic cruise control. For the rest of us, there's the Kaoko EZ-Cruz throttle lock from Black Dog Cycle Works. While it's not the first friction-type throttle lock on the market, it may be the coolest looking one out there. Black Dog offers models for a wide range of bikes, and they're machined to closely match the look of the stock bar-end weight.

The Kaoko EZ-Cruz maintains throttle position while allowing you to relax your hand, wrist, and forearms, greatly reducing rider fatigue and hand numbness.

Installation is simple: remove the factory bar-end weight, dab a drop of threadlock compound on the EZ-Cruz, install, and tighten. The installation on this Star Roadliner took a whopping 30 seconds. For certain

types of handlebars, like those on a Kawasaki, a slight amount of filing may be required to fit the Kaoko. So plan ahead for a whole five minutes of labor on those.

The black friction nut has a left-hand thread. To engage the lock, grip the friction nut between the small finger and palm of your hand while rolling on the throttle. This tightens the nut and provides sufficient friction to set throttle speed. You can still open and close the throttle, but it'll be slightly stiff. To disengage, just grip the friction nut between the small finger and palm of your hand, and roll forward, just like rolling off the throttle.

The best tip I can give is to use the EZ-Cruz wisely, only cruising when it is safe to do so. At all other times, it should be disengaged. Trying to constantly adjust speed in traffic with the EZ-Cruz engaged may lead to arm pump as the throttle tension is harder to turn. Wait for smooth sailing in front of you, lock it, and ride. —Steve Lita



hard data ▶ Black Dog Cycle Works ▶ EZ-Cruz #KM_YAMLINER ▶ \$110 ▶ 208/263-0438 ▶ www.BlackDogCW.com



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