

Pleasures of the BUTT

It's not that stock BMW seats are bad, but they could be better – At least on my RT, the seat could be higher, offer more support, perhaps breath better and I wouldn't complain if it were more comfortable. Fortunately, a little over two hours north of Sacramento, in the sleepy town of Anderson, is a small motorcycle seat remanufacturer who can remedy my concerns.



Rick's shop in Anderson, CA

A detailed map or GPS helps locate Rick Mayer's shop, but once there, the garage door opens and you drive your bike right into his shop. It's clean, with hundreds of spare seat pans along the back wall, and a large table for cutting and reassembling leather/vinyl into a new, personalized butt support. Off to the right is Rick's grinding room, where he custom forms your new seat, and a comfortable waiting room.

Seth, the leather/vinyl expert, pulled my seat and was removing staples before my riding gear was off. It wasn't much later that a color and material decision had to be made. Rick has a huge selection of colors – All the standard motorcycle black, blue, tan, etc. colors, but also pinks and fuchsias if you want to make a statement. Not wanting to redefine my persona, I settled on black and leather. Boring. Yeah, I know.



Seth reassembling the seat

After sizing up my riding position and posture, Rick went to work grinding a new seat. He's done a couple so it didn't take long to find the perfect fit. Seth applied the new seat cover, the seats remounted, one last fitting, the bill paid and we were done. Less than two hours after entering the building!



The master at his task

The new seat is better in a number of ways. For starters, it's wider, offers more support, and as it turned out on the ride home, was significantly less fatiguing. Rick also raised it to address my seat height complaint. Finally he tapered the front so that when stopped, by sliding forward

on the seat, I can comfortably reach the ground with my feet.



It takes a little mental and physical adjustment to riding in a slightly different (higher) position, but compared to the overall comfort, that was a small price to pay. Besides, the adjustment period was probably less than five minutes and five turns.

The ride home also removed my concern that the seat heater effectiveness would be reduced by the thicker padding – Not to worry, it was toasty warm on the rainy ride home.

Even though drive-ins receive a discount, Rick says that drive-ins are the minority – Most order their seat by mail. And his huge pan inventory gives most customers the ability to receive their new seat before they send in their old one – But as close as we are, and with the ability to get custom-fitted right on the spot, the short jaunt to Anderson and back is highly recommended.

Rick, who just coincidentally happens to be an RCB member, can be reached at 530/357-BUTT (357-2888). Call him and schedule your own appointment!

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The River City Beemers are Northern California's largest and most active BMW Motorcycle club and can be found at <http://www.rcb.org/>