

# Checking the V-Star 1100 Dragstar Starter for Maintenance and Painting

When you look at a V-Star or Dragstar 1100 bike, the all black engine block with a SILVER starter somehow looks wrong.

No one will probably ever know why Yamaha put a silver starter on our bikes, but we can fix that fairly easily. There is no reason one can not paint their V-Star starter and fix this engineering mistake.

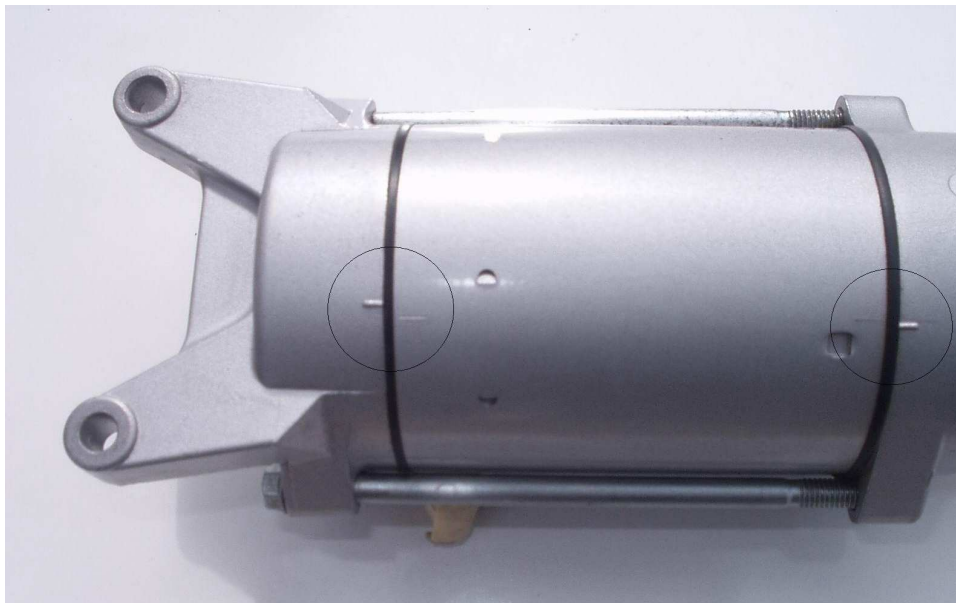
The V-Star 1100 starter has a maintenance problem. The two 8mm starter case bolts can loosen and the starter case will twist and bend the bolts. This can be checked and repaired.

These instructions will help identify starter maintenance issues and help any riders wanting to paint their starter.

The starter case or housing can twist if the two 8 mm case bolts get loose. This will occur on more than ten percent of V-Star bikes. It is not a serious problem, but the bolts will eventually bend as they get looser and the starter is used more.

There are case alignment marks on the starter. Check these marks to identify starter twist. The two bolts will show bending if it is badly twisted. Also, check the two 8mm bolts for tightness. Tighten the bolts firmly, but not in excess. The case has rubber seals between the case ends that the bolts hold together. Excessive tightness will not be good for the starter.

Check your starter for twist and occasionally check the tightness of the starter bolts. These bolts can be checked at oil change intervals.



This picture shows a starter with a twisted case. It is not severe, but the bolts are slightly bent.

The problem with looking at the lineup marks is that they are on the back side of the starter. This starter was removed for painting and aligned and painted. The bolts did not need replacing.

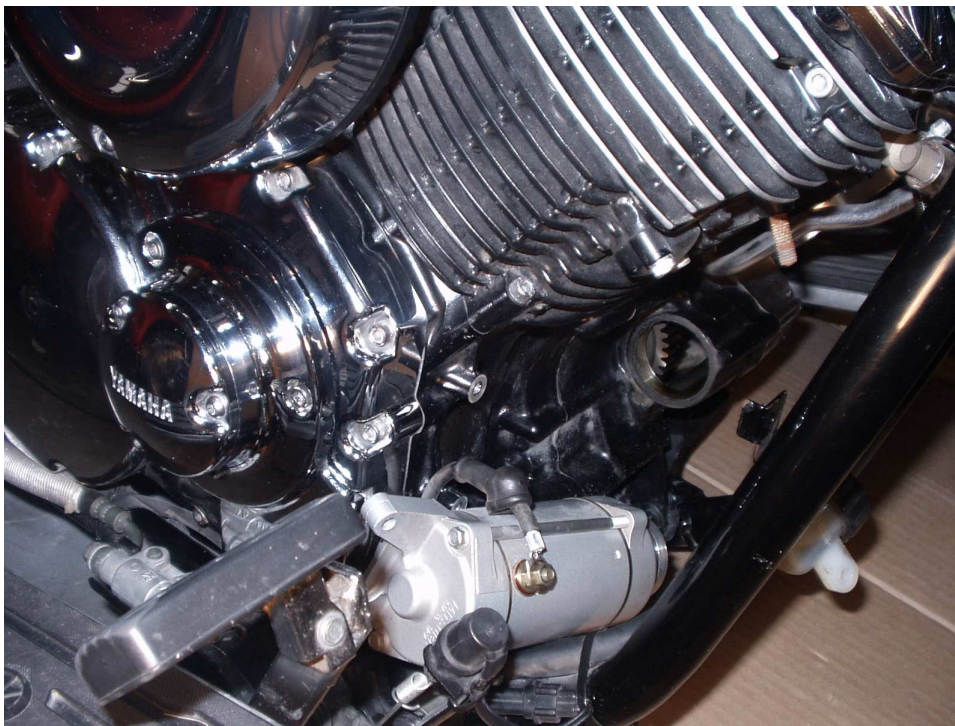
The bolts will show twist and need tightened if a problem exists.

# Painting the V-Star / Dragstar Starter

These instructions will help riders paint their V-Star starter. This is a fairly easy motorcycle modification. One will no longer look at the SILVER starter installed on their bike with a black engine.

The starter can be removed by taking out the two 10mm bolts on the end and removing the 10mm nut on the starter wire. The starter slides into the engine casing and can be carefully wiggled and pulled out. There is oil in the case and either remove the starter at oil change or position the bike level before starter removal.

This picture shows the starter removed during an oil change. The front exhaust header has been removed for easy access to the starter. This prevents scratching the starter on reinstall.



Clean and check the starter after it is removed. Look at the lineup marks and check for twist. Loosen the 8mm case bolts and twist the starter ends on the case to realign.

The starter can be cleaned with solvent or paint thinner, and then sanded with 600 wet/dry sandpaper and a scuff pad. A small wire brush may help with cleaning. After the starter is cleaned and sanded, mask the end gear and wire terminal.

The following picture shows a V-Star starter ready for painting. It can be recommended that one leave the case bolts installed on the starter and paint them. Or one can carefully remove the bolts just before painting and carefully paint the starter without the bolts. Do not allow the case to separate if the bolts are removed for painting. This instruction shows the bolts removed. The bolts were immediately reinstalled after painting.

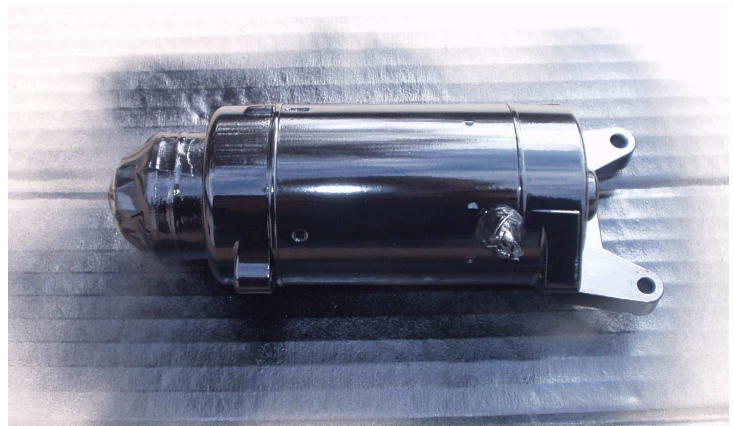


The picture on the left shows everything needed to complete this modification.

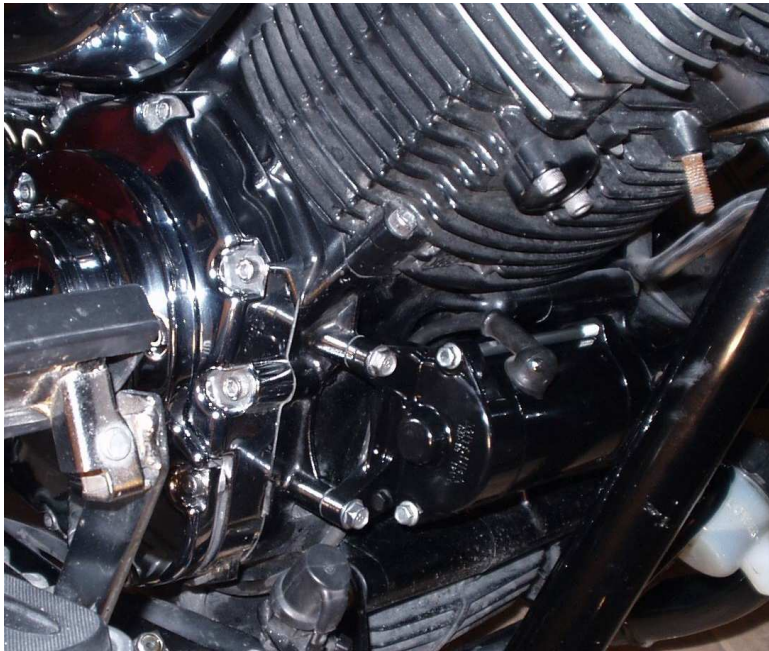
High temperature gloss black engine paint is recommended for painting the starter. 500 degree engine paint is more than sufficient.

The picture below shows a starter being painted. Other methods of holding the starter while painting can be used.

Reinstall the starter after the paint is dry.



Congratulations, you will never look at the SILVER starter again on your bike. Other V-Star riders will notice how much nicer your bike looks.



Visit [VSTAR.BRAZILMISSION.net](http://VSTAR.BRAZILMISSION.net) for more V-Star and Dragstar 1100 modifications and information.

**Have a good day and safe ride.**