

Good to go



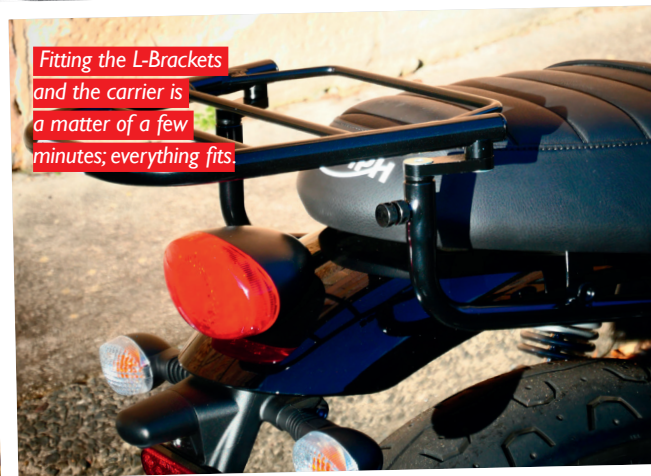
See how useful motorcycle luggage can be? Here it doubles as a bike stand for a tube repair.

ONE MORE RECENT ADDITION to the range of must-do fitments is a DNA air filter. I have not previously paid a great deal of attention to air cleaners, I must admit. Ever since the days when I rode Harley-Davidson WLAs, which (seriously) didn't seem to need their ugly, bulky and annoying oil-filled air filter cans at all, I have simply not worried about air cleaners as often or as carefully as I should have. Just had the filter changed at every service. Many of my bikes saw servicing very, very rarely, so it is a wonder that they continued to breathe at all. A few years ago, though, I put a DNA filter in my Bonneville and was impressed by the difference it made. Since then, usually after the first or second service, my bikes get DNA filters and are the better for them.

Which brings me to the point of this story. Australia and New Zealand have a well-earned reputation for producing strong, reliable, and effective motorcycle accessories. Nowhere is that more true than in matters of luggage. I thought I might pick out three of our (more or less) local manufacturers of luggage to give them a bit of the praise they deserve. I have also added one manufacturer which is anything but local, but which is also known for its high quality.

To the usual doubting Thomases: please note that this is not tied to advertising in any way, and that I use these people's products myself. Since we're being painfully honest here, it is true that I do not always pay for them: I am a useful outside tester. What this all boils down to is that I use a lot of stuff, and I thought this was a good time to pass on my experiences. The positive ones.

Fitting the L-Brackets and the carrier is a matter of a few minutes; everything fits.



There are several Ventura bags available in different sizes, all with reflective panels.



Ventura

kenma.com.au

Paul Dold and the crew at Dold Industries Ltd in Hamilton, NZ have been making Ventura motorcycle luggage systems since the 1970s. Their products are sold world-wide and are respected by motorcyclists everywhere (including me) for their innovative design, quality and attention to detail and because they meet their demands and needs.

"The Ventura Bike-Pack System, our first product, was first designed and built in the seventies to give motorcyclists the opportunity of having a luggage system that was individually designed and custom-made for their bike," says Paul. "Since then, motorcycles have gone through some radical and dramatic changes." Ventura products have changed with the bikes, and I have fitted the Aero system, Ventura's latest, to our latest Triumph.

"One thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to quality and innovative design," he says. "We continue to produce custom-made accessories that suit, fit and greatly enhance the functionality of your particular model bike."

One thing that is truly remarkable about the luggage systems is that they are based on the Ventura L-Brackets which are made specifically for each model of bike.