

12. Front Wheel/Suspension/Steering

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Service Information

⚠ WARNING

- Riding on damaged rims impairs safe operation of the vehicle.
- A contaminated brake disc or pad reduces stopping power. Discard contaminated pads and clean a contaminated disc with a high quality brake degreasing agent.
- Inhaled asbestos fibers have been found to cause respiratory disease and cancer. Never use an air hose or dry brush to clean brake assemblies. Use an OSHA-approved vacuum cleaner or alternate method approved by OSHA designed to minimize the hazard caused by airborne asbestos fibers.

- Refer to the section 14 for brake system information.
- Refer to the section 18 for light, meter and switch information.
- Tubeless tire removal, repair, and remounting procedures are covered in the section 16 of the Common Service Manual.
- If the motorcycle has been involved in an accident, inspect the frame very carefully at the steering head and at the engine mounts. These are the areas most likely to suffer damage. It is possible to bend the frame steering head without bending the fork tubes or even the front axle.
- While removing the wheel, fork or steering stem, support the motorcycle securely with a jack or other support under the exhaust system.

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Troubleshooting

Hard steering

- Steering head bearing adjustment nut too tight
- Faulty steering head bearings
- Damaged steering stem races
- Insufficient tire pressure
- Faulty tire

Steers to one side or does not track straight

- Bent fork
- Bent front axle: wheel installed incorrectly
- Faulty steering head bearings
- Bent frame
- Worn wheel bearing
- Worn swingarm pivot

Front wheel wobbling

- Bent rim
- Worn front wheel bearings
- Faulty tire
- Unbalanced tire and wheel

Wheel turns hard

- Faulty wheel bearing
- Brake drag
- Bent front axle

Soft suspension

- Weak fork spring
- Insufficient fluid in fork
- Low fluid level in fork
- Low tire pressure

Hard suspension

- Incorrect fluid weight
- Bent fork tubes
- Clogged fork fluid passage
- High tire pressure

Front suspension noisy

- Insufficient fluid in fork
- Loose fork fasteners