

The FUN Way to Install Kuryakan Iso Grips

Friday afternoon

12:10 pm. Arrive home, work over for the week. Hallelujah! Pour large glass of Jack Daniels and shake my head at the thought that anyone would want to put ice in it.

12:17 pm. Notice package has arrived for me. Open it to discover new Kuryakyn Iso grips for my bike. Hot damn...I can get those installed today!

12:22 pm. Log on to ShadowAero750 forum to find CeeAre's pictorial article on how to replace stock grips with the Iso grips. Read through...simple...nice photos...this shouldn't take any time at all. Make mental note that 7,047 readers have studied this same article...must be a popular topic.

12:33 pm. Notice my glass is getting low on JD, so I pour some more. Damn, I'm glad the weekend is here. Now where did I put those grips?

12:39 pm. In garage, looking at bike. Crap...it's hot and humid in here. Why do I live in Texas anyway? Oh well...the JD is beginning to take effect, and I'm feeling pretty comfortable despite the heat.

12:43 pm. New grips in hand, check them out. Feel pretty good. But how in the hell am I going to dig out those tubes of glue and the instructions that they've crammed down inside one of those grips? I know...needle nose pliers.

12:45 pm. Needle nose pliers manage to puncture one tube of glue as I'm pulling it out. Thankfully none (at least not much) gets on the new grips...and since I'm wearing shorts, none drips on any pants...just down my leg. No big deal, the article on the forum says you can get by with one tube anyway. I avoid touching my leg for fear my hand might stick to it. I wonder if Jack Daniels might be a solvent for that glue? No...but now that I notice it, I'm getting low on JD.

12:52 pm. Back inside. Man, it feels a lot cooler in here. Glass now full of JD again. Shaking off the glue incident. Read over the cryptic little typed instructions that come with the grips. Glad I'd read the article on the forum, as the Kury instructions suck. Feeling pretty mellow. Leg with glue on it feeling a little weird.

12:56 pm. Back in garage. Razor knife in hand, ready to cut off the old grips. This should be easy...at least it looked easy in CeeAre's photos. Notice blade is dull and rusted. Run finger down edge and verify blade is not going to cut very well. Decide to put a new blade in the razor knife.

1:17 pm. Bleeding pretty much stanch, pain leveling off, and Band-aids holding okay. Note to self: new razor blades are much sharper than old dull blades. Notice that pouring

some of the JD over the wound for antiseptic purposes has got me running low again. Better get a refill, as I'll need it for pain control later on.

1:22 pm. Back in the garage, knife with sharp blade in hand, beginning to cut off the old grips. Damn...they must have used super glue on MY grips. The old grip material isn't peeling off of here like I expected it to. Hmm...where are my channel-locks? Where is my Jack Daniels?

1:30 pm. Grip material finally removed on throttle side. Sweating a lot. Finger throbbing. Take a big drink of Jack Daniels to celebrate. Man, that stuff goes down easy. Almost forget what to do next. Maybe I should have printed out those instructions...

1:37 pm. The clutch-side grip comes off fairly easily now that I've figured it out. Still, I'm sweating like a pig and feel like maybe a dip in the pool would help.

2:17 pm. Back inside after quick swim. Jack Daniels glass refreshed. Cool and crisp from dip in the pool. Not a care in the world (except for aching finger and minor itching on my leg). Oh crap...I nearly forgot...I'm in the middle of a "grip" project. Go back to garage.

2:23 pm. Damn it's hot and humid in here! Let's see...he said that denatured alcohol worked well for removing the old glue. Now where do I keep that stuff?

2:41 pm. Can't find any alcohol (aside from the Jack Daniels, and I'm not willing to waste any of that), but I do find some acetone. That's a solvent, isn't it? Acetone in hand. Open top of can. Damn! That stuff smells really good! I mean REALLY good! Pour it on cloth and start working on plastic sleeves to remove old glue. Feeling incredibly mellow. Pick up acetone can and get a better smell...

4:12 pm. Wake up from little nap on garage floor. Now where was I? Why is my head hurting like this? Jack Daniels never gives me a hangover...what the hell? Take big swig of Jack Daniels. Now it's all coming back to me. I'm ready to install the new grips. Notice garage floor covered with dead roaches...wonder what did that? Note to self: maybe use more ventilation next time you are using acetone.

4:16 pm. Better refresh my glass of JD before I go much further. I'm at the critical point. The article said to be all ready to go before applying any glue.

4:24 pm. Try on grips to make sure they are going to slide on okay. Hey...they slide on and off snugly but without much problem. Get the feel for where I want them turned, for optimum comfort. Once I put the glue on, it'll probably be like a lubricant and make the new grips slide on even easier, like a slick thermometer up a baby's...never mind.

4:29 pm. Remaining tube of glue opened safely and ready to go. Coat plastic sleeve as shown in article. Put a few drops inside the grip for "lubrication". Take a big gulp of JD to calm my shaking hands...after all, this is the critical part. Begin to shove grip on with

right hand. Uh-oh...rather than acting like a lubricant, the glue is acting more like...uh...glue. Grip only goes about halfway before stopping. Crap!

4:30 pm. In my panic to get the grip shoved the rest of the way on (much less turned at the proper rotation), I realize I'm still holding the tube of glue in my left hand. Actually I'm SQUEEZING the tube of glue...all over my left hand. Oh well...can't worry about that now. With much grunting, I manage to shove the grip the rest of the way on and turn it close to where I wanted it.

4:31 pm. In standing back to admire the newly installed grip, I become aware that three of the fingers on my left hand are glued together. Hmm...maybe there are some evolutionary advantages to that, but if so, I can't see them. Damn! Where is that razor knife?

5:12 pm. Left hand fingers now back to normal...well, maybe not normal, but at least independent again. Skin should be growing back within a few days. A big glass of JD is going to help sooth the pain anyway.

5:16 pm. Clutch-side grip installed without a hitch...practice makes perfect. Stand back to admire project and step on what remains of the tube of glue, now laying on the garage floor. Perfect...

5:17 pm. Realize FedEx Ground truck is pulling in the driveway. Driver obviously has a package for me.

5:22 pm. Watching FedEx truck back out my driveway. Standing there with new luggage rack, ready to be installed on my bike. If not for the Jack Daniels, I'd be hurting all over. Notice one of the dying roaches has crawled over into the rapidly drying glue and seems to now be permanently affixed to the garage floor. Not sure if it's the acetone or the JD, but I give a brief thought to gluing the roach to my front fender as a sort of hood ornament. Maybe not.... Let's see, the grip job took a little over five hours. So maybe I need to save the luggage rack for Saturday. Damn, I need to pour some JD and find a little time to relax and enjoy the weekend...all this work is wearing me down. I wonder if this glue is going to peel off my legs...