

I installed a Stebel Nautilus air horn on my bike. You can't see it, but you can sure hear it. I wanted to be able to switch between the OEM horn and the new air horn. I also wanted to keep my bike as clean as possible without drilling any holes. I looked under the bike and found some room under the swing arm and decide to put the horn there. So here's how I did it.

I had to get some other things beside the horn - a relay comes with the horn. I bought a rockers switch, an in-line fuse and built a frame to support the horn. The rocker switch is 10 amp rating. Should be enough to handle the load.

I decided to mount the rocker switch on the plastic frame cover in front of the tank. It's accessible when riding to switch from one horn to the other. When the bike is parked and the fork locked to the left, the rocker switch is hidden from view.

I started by cutting an opening for the switch. I did this with an exacto knife and a straight edge. This switch has tabs on the inside that hold it in place.

Next I had to make a support for the air horn. I went to Home Depot and bought some steel bar stock, 1-inch wide, 1/8-inch thick. I had some pipe in the shop that was the same size as the cross members under the swing arm. I put the bar stock and the pipe in the vice, heated the stock up, and bent it into shape. I drilled a hole in each support to clamp them together. I also notched out part of it to zip strap the wires easier. When I got the shape I wanted, I wrapped the cross members a couple of times with electrical tape so as not to scratch them too much when tightening the mount. I zip strapped any loose wires so they wouldn't flop around.

There was just enough room to put the relay under the seat. I zip strapped it to a piece of insulated wire that's used to secure a bundle of wires.

Next was the wiring. I arbitrarily chose different colors of 14 gauge wire. I made up the ends of the wires with appropriate connections (push-on and eye) and covered them with heat shrink. I wrapped all the wires with electrical tape for added insulation. I also covered the wires under the horn with tape to protect from rocks and sticks. Lastly, I updated my wiring schematic to show the new horn. I had to make the following connections.

1. Wire from rocker switch to + side of OEM horn (black)
2. Wire from rocker switch to relay (yellow)
3. In-line fuse from battery to relay (red)
4. Wire from + side of air horn to relay (red)
5. Wire from - side of air horn to relay (black)
6. Wire from - side of relay to frame (black)

I really liked this project a lot because I got to make something and learn more about my bike at the same time. Don't think I got it right the first time. I made a couple of horn supports until I got it like I wanted. I don't have a bike lift so I made more trips than I care to remember from the vice to the underside of the bike. I used my multi-meter to take resistance and voltage measurements many times. Of course, this gave me a reason to buy a shop manual. I put locktite on all bolts that were re-installed. I've learned bolts can shake loose.

Wiring has never been my strong suit. I can make connections and pull wire no problem. Checking from point to point and understanding the circuit is another issue. If someone is thinking about installing this horn the way I did, it would be fun for me to make a kit or two for installation.

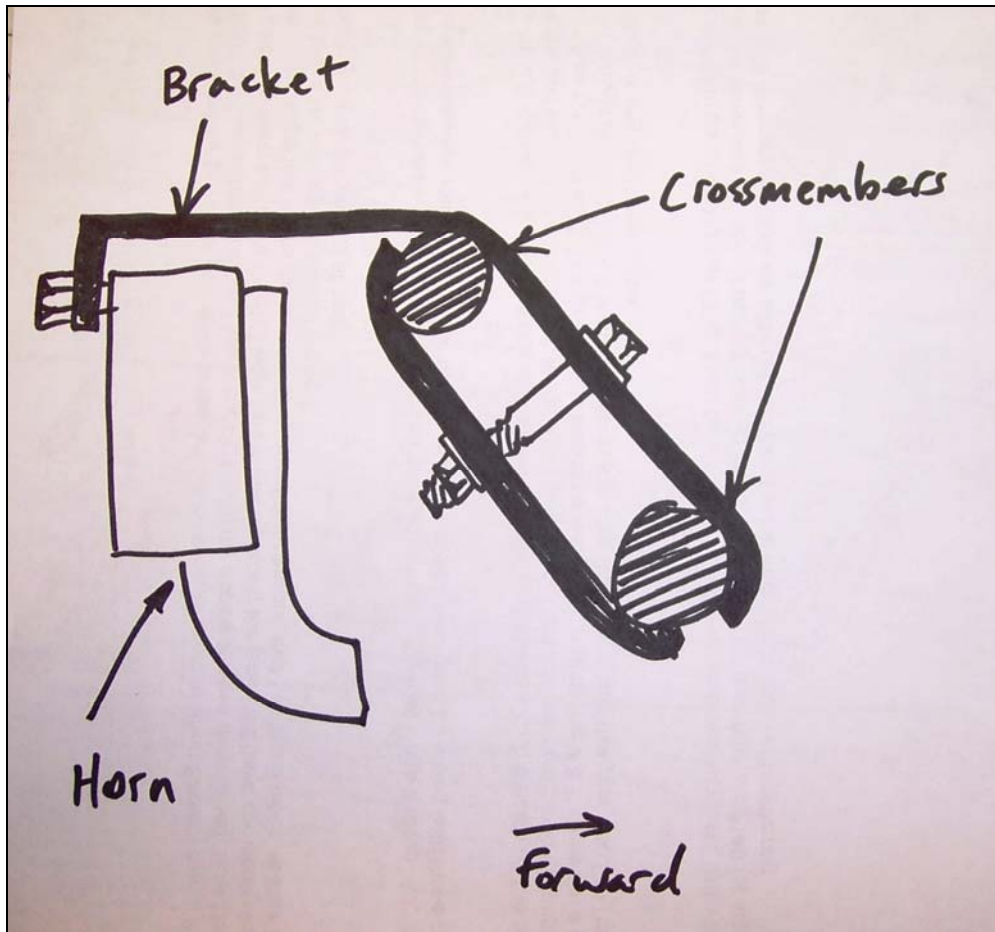
You've probably read in posts that the horn has to be in a vertical position to keep oil in the compressor. The way I have the horn on the bike it points forward. It would be louder if the horn was located in the OEM position instead of being behind the engine, but it's plenty loud where it is right now. When I'm riding, it sounds like the horn goes out in all directions.

The fun part is blowing the horn when I'm riding by a big truck and watching people look at the truck instead of me. Another trick is pulling up in someone's driveway and beep the OEM horn a couple of times then switching to the air horn and watching them jump. Too much fun. Maybe I'm grow up some day, but I have no immediate plans.

Hope this has been helpful. Enjoy.



Horn on Bike



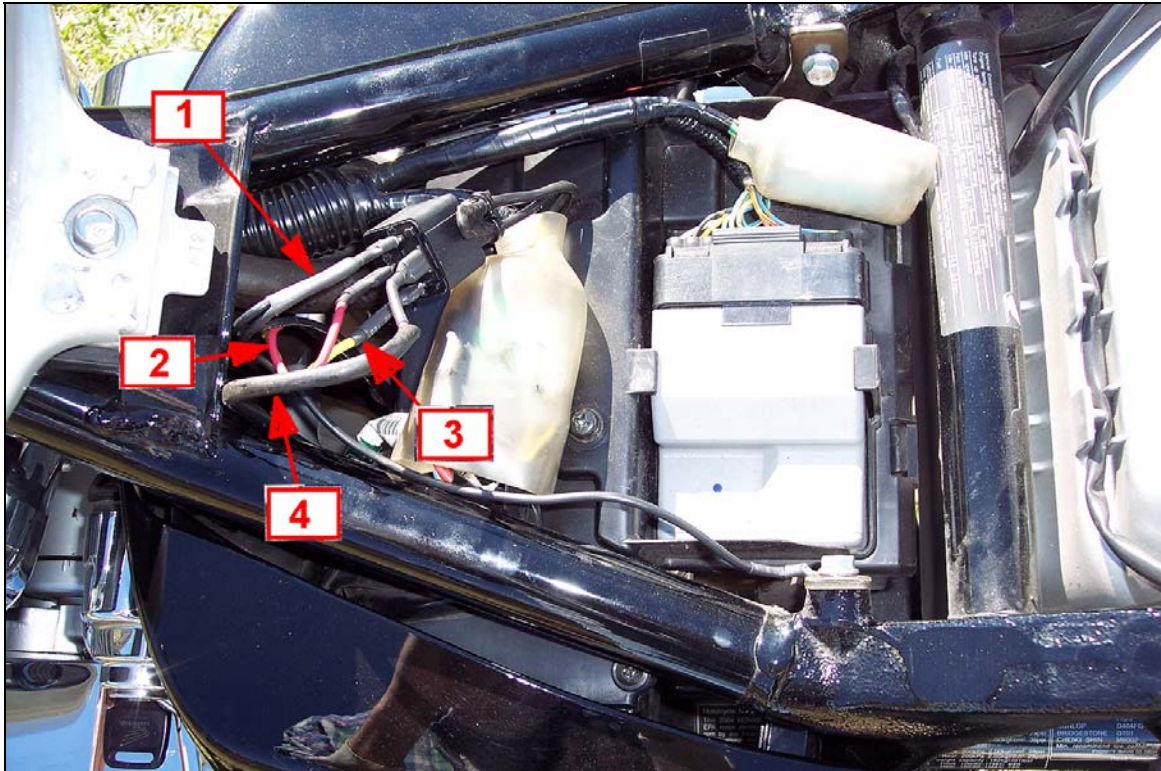
Sketch Showing Bracket for Air Horn



Horn Viewed from Back Left



Horn Viewed from Back Right



- 1 Wire from – terminal air horn spliced to ground (black)**
- 2 Wire from + terminal air horn (red)**
- 3 Wire from rocker switch (yellow)**
- 4 Wire from in-line fuse (red)**

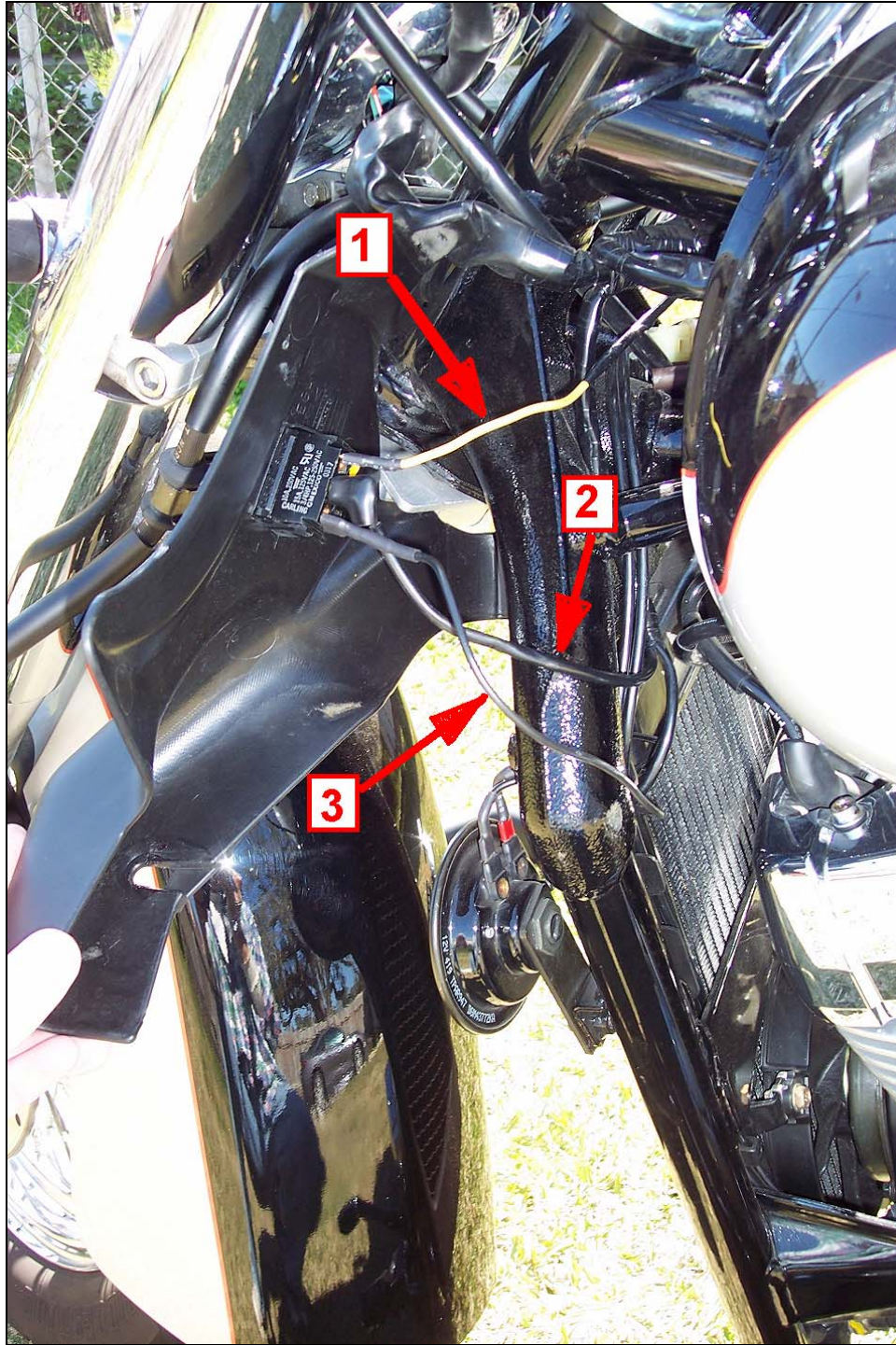
Relay Mounted Under the Seat



In-Line Fuse From Battery to Relay

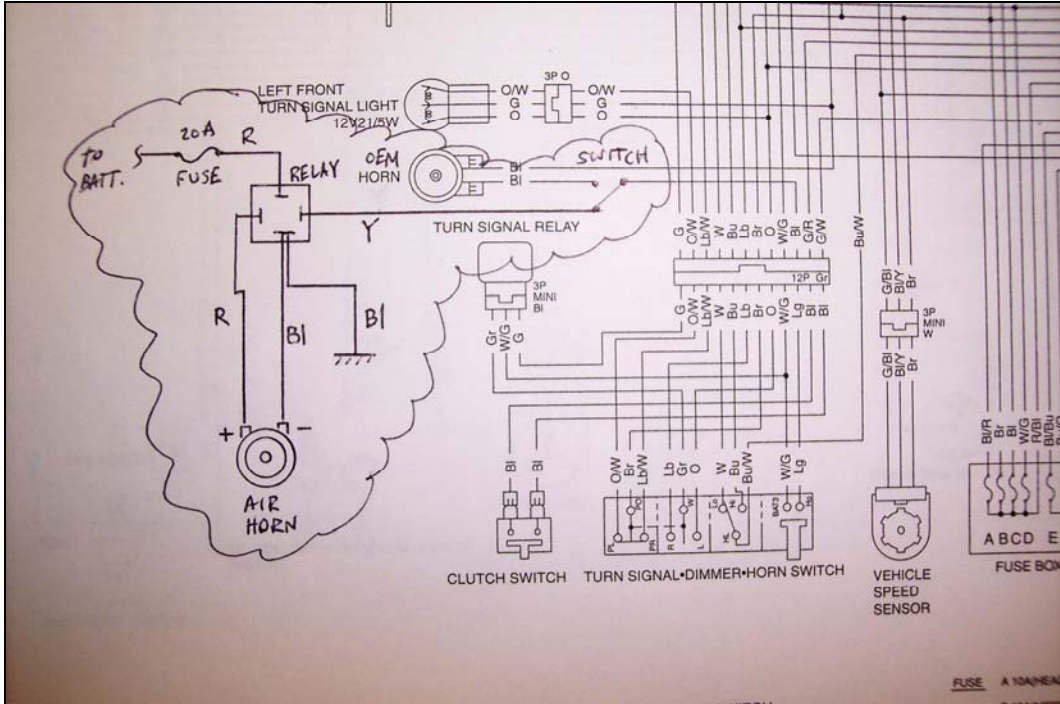


Rocker Switch



- 1 Wire from rocker switch to relay (yellow)**
- 2 Wire from horn switch to + terminal of OEM horn**
- 3 New wire from rocker switch to + terminal of OEM horn**

Rocker Switch Wiring



Updated Wiring Diagram