GENERAL

1999 bmw k 1200lt manual

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Discover the 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual: A Classic Touring Motorcycle Revisited

When you think of touring motorcycles that combine performance, comfort, and a touch of nostalgia, the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual immediately comes to mind. This iconic model, part of BMW's legendary K series, was a trailblazer in the late 1990s, setting new standards for power, reliability, and rider experience. In this in depth guide, we'll explore everything you need to know about the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual—from its engineering marvels and riding characteristics to maintenance tips and why it remains a coveted classic among motorcycle enthusiasts.

Why the 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual Still Matters

Although newer models have taken the spotlight, the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual continues to earn admiration for several reasons:

- Unmatched Power and Torque – The 1,200 cc liquid cooled inline four delivers a smooth and powerful ride.
- Precision Manual Gearbox – A 6 speed manual transmission offers riders complete control.
- Comfort for Long Hauls – Ergonomic seating, adjustable windscreen, and a well balanced chassis make it ideal for touring.
- Durable Build – High quality materials and BMW's reputation for engineering longevity keep the bike reliable.
- Classic Design – The iconic styling and iconic "K" badge evoke a sense of heritage.

Whether you're a seasoned rider looking to relive the golden age of touring or a newcomer eager to experience a piece of motorcycle history, the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual offers a timeless adventure.

Key Specifications of the 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual

Below is a concise snapshot of the main technical details that define the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual:

- Engine: 1,200 cc liquid cooled inline four (K1200 series)
- Power Output: 113 hp (85 kW) at 8,500 rpm
- Torque: 103 Nm (76 lb ft) at 5,500 rpm
- Transmission: 6 speed manual gearbox with countershaft
- Frame: Steel tube with aluminum subframe for reduced weight
- Suspension: Front: 43 mm telescopic fork; Rear: Dual shock absorbers with adjustable preload
- Brakes: Front: Dual 320 mm discs with ABS; Rear: 260 mm disc
- Weight: 239 kg (527 lb) dry weight
- Fuel Capacity: 18 L (4.8 gal)
- Seat Height: 840 mm (33 in)

Manual Gearbox: The Heart of the Riding Experience

One of the most celebrated aspects of the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual is its six speed gearbox. The gear ratios were meticulously engineered to offer a balance between acceleration and cruising efficiency. The first gear is short enough for quick off the line performance, while the top gear (6th) is wide for economical highway cruising. Coupled with a well designed countershaft, the gearbox delivers smooth shifts and reduces wear on the clutch.

Engineering Excellence: What Makes the 1999 K1200LT Manual Stand Out?

Liquid Cooled Inline Four: Power and Smoothness

The K1200LT's engine is a liquid cooled inline four that runs on a 12 vane combustion system. This design provides a high power output while keeping the engine's temperature under control, which is essential for long rides. The inline four layout also contributes to a smooth power delivery, reducing vibration and making the bike comfortable on extended journeys.

High Quality Materials for Durability

BMW's commitment to quality is evident in the choice of materials. The frame uses high strength steel tubes, while the subframe is aluminum to reduce weight. The engine block is cast iron, ensuring longevity even under heavy use. The result is a motorcycle that can withstand the rigors of touring and still feel fresh and responsive.

Ergonomics and Rider Comfort

Riding comfort is a priority on the 1999 K1200LT manual. The seat is designed with a slight recline, and the handlebars are positioned for a relaxed grip. An adjustable windscreen helps reduce wind fatigue, and the footpegs are positioned to give a natural stance. For those who enjoy long distance touring, these features reduce rider fatigue and increase overall enjoyment.

Riding the 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual: Tips for a Smooth Experience

Mastering the Manual Transmission

Although the gearbox is user friendly, mastering the clutch and gear changes can elevate your riding experience. Here are some practical tips:

1. Clutch Control: Use a gradual release to avoid jerky movements, especially when accelerating from a stop.
2. Gear Selection: Shift up before the engine reaches its redline to maintain power and avoid engine strain.
3. Rev Matching: When downshifting, rev match to smoothen the transition and reduce clutch wear.
4. Practice: Spend time in a safe environment to get comfortable with the clutch's bite point.

Long Distance Touring Strategies

For those planning extended trips, consider these strategies:

- Plan rest stops every 150–200 km to stretch and hydrate.
- Carry a small repair kit, including spare tubes, a basic toolset, and a first aid kit.
- Use a GPS or a reliable navigation app to avoid getting lost.
- Keep the bike's tires properly inflated for optimal fuel efficiency and handling.

Safety First: Essential Gear

While the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual is designed for comfort and performance, safety gear remains paramount. Invest in:

- Helmet with a visor for wind protection.
- Leather jacket and pants with armor for impact protection.
- Gloves to improve grip and protect hands.
- High visibility clothing for better visibility during low light.

Maintenance and Care for the 1999 K1200LT Manual

Regular Oil Changes

Oil plays a critical role in engine longevity. Follow these guidelines:

1. Check the oil level every 500 km or once a month.
2. Change the oil and filter every 3,000 km or 12 months, whichever comes first.
3. Use a high quality synthetic oil recommended by BMW.

Tire Care

Proper tire maintenance ensures safety and performance:

- Check tire pressure before every trip; the recommended pressure is 2.0–2.4 bar.
- Inspect tread wear regularly; replace tires if tread depth is below 1.5 mm.
- Rotate tires every 8,000–10,000 km to promote even wear.

Brake System Maintenance

Brakes are your bike’s life line:

1. Inspect brake pads for wear every 5,000 km.
2. Replace pads if the wear indicator shows less than 2 mm.
3. Check brake fluid level and top up with DOT 4 fluid as needed.
4. Flush brake fluid every 2 years to keep the system clean.

Chain and Sprocket Care

A well maintained chain keeps the power transfer efficient:

- Lubricate the chain after every 1,000 km or after exposure to rain.
- Check chain tension regularly; it should be tight but not overly tight.
- Replace the chain and sprockets if you notice excessive wear.

Common Issues and How to Fix Them

Engine Overheating

While rare, overheating can occur if the cooling system is compromised. Check for:

- Coolant leaks or low coolant levels.
- Faulty thermostat or radiator blockages.
- Improper coolant mixture.

Solution: Flush the cooling system, replace faulty components, and ensure the coolant mixture is correct.

Clutch Slippage

Clutch slippage may arise from:

- Worn clutch plates.
- Improper clutch adjustment.
- Low-quality clutch fluid.

Solution: Replace clutch plates, adjust the clutch lever properly, and use the recommended fluid.

Suspension Problems

Suspension issues can stem from:

- Worn fork seals.

- Damaged shock absorbers.
- Incorrect preload settings.

Solution: Replace worn components, adjust preload according to load, and consider upgrading to high performance shocks for better handling.

Upgrades and Customizations for the 1999 K1200LT Manual

Performance Enhancements

Boosting the bike's performance can be a thrilling experience. Popular upgrades include:

- High flow exhaust systems.
- Upgraded throttle bodies for increased airflow.
- Performance ECU remapping.

Comfort Improvements

Enhance the riding experience with:

- Upgraded seat or aftermarket seat covers.
- Improved windscreen for better aerodynamics.
- Adjustable footpegs for a personalized riding position.

Styling Customizations

Make your 1999 K1200LT manual stand out with:

- Custom paint jobs or decals.
- Modern LED lighting.
- Aftermarket handlebars and grips.

Where to Buy a 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual

Finding a reliable source for a classic motorcycle like the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual can be challenging. Here are some options:

- Certified Dealerships: BMW's network of authorized dealers occasionally offers used models in excellent condition.
- Specialty Classic Motorcycle Shops: These shops specialize in vintage bikes and often provide detailed history records.
- Online Marketplaces: Platforms such as CycleTrader, eBay Motors, and specialized motorcycle forums can be good places to search, but always verify authenticity.
- Auctions: Classic motorcycle auctions can sometimes yield great deals if you're willing to travel.

Final Thoughts: The Enduring Legacy of the 1999 BMW K1200LT Manual

From its powerful inline four engine and ergonomic design to its robust manual transmission, the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual remains a benchmark for touring motorcycles. Whether you're reviving a classic for leisure rides or embarking on long distance adventures, this bike offers a blend of performance, comfort, and reliability that few modern machines can match. With proper maintenance, thoughtful upgrades, and a passion for riding, the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual can continue to deliver memorable journeys for years to come.

So, if you're ready to experience the thrill of a true touring legend, consider the 1999 BMW K1200LT manual for your next

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