

Cogent Dynamics Inc. DDC Fork Kit Instructions (DL650 V-Strom 2004 to present)

Dear Valued Customer,

Thank you for purchasing your Cogent Dynamics Drop in Damper Cartridge (DDC). This easy to install damping solution will update your DL650 forks to new levels of performance. Each Cogent DDC kit has been engineered to enhance the performance of your bike. The Cogent Dynamics DDC modification will improve both compression and rebound damping characteristics of the DL650 forks, providing outstanding feel and traction.

Installation of your new DDC requires that your forks are in good condition and have the proper type and level of fork oil. Your Cogent DDC was calibrated to use Golden Spectro Cartridge Fork Fluid 85/150 (5 wt.) which is a synthetic blend suspension fluid made in the USA for cartridge type forks. An approximate volume of 600 ML per fork leg will be needed to fill the tube to the correct level. We also recommend that you incorporate the appropriate straight rate springs for your application (The DDC set, springs and pre-engineered spacers are included in the Cogent Fork Performance Kit). No drilling, welding or other modifications are needed to complete the installation.

Spring recommendations for the Cogent Dynamics DDC:

Rider weight	Preload	Oil Level
140-160 lbs	2mm	150mm
160-240 lbs	5mm	140mm
240-290 lbs	10mm	120mm

Installation Procedure: *(We highly recommend that you do a 'dry run' to thoroughly familiarize yourself with the installation procedure before you complete the install with oil.)*

1. Elevate motorcycle and remove front wheel.
2. Loosen top triple clamp bolts.
3. Loosen fork caps while fork tubes are still held by the lower triple clamp.
4. Remove forks from motorcycle.
5. Remove fork cap, preload spacers, washer and main spring from each tube.
6. Remove fork oil by inverting fork over a suitable container and pump forks until no more oil is in the fork. Let stand upside down for 15 minutes to thoroughly drain all oil.
7. Add new fork oil (Spectro 5 wt.) and bleed fork by slowly the pumping the fork tube up and down until air bubbles quit coming up.
8. Ensure oil level is set by fully compressing fork and measuring from the top edge of the steel fork tube to the oil level (this measurement is 130mm in most cases).
9. Carefully lower the DDC into the fork, orienting the smaller O.D. locating ring and nylock nut downward. Ensure that the DDC is fully seated into the damper rod head.
10. Install spring with the OEM washer at the top. Use the Cogent spacer or cut a spacer to provide correct spring preload using OEM preload adjuster (See the above chart).
11. Extend the fork and measure from the top of the spacer to the top edge of the fork tube. A measurement of approximately 15-18mm assures that the DDC is seated and the correct length spacer is installed. This assumes you are using a Cogent approved spring and are not compressing the top out spring.
12. Replace hitch pin that secures washer on bottom fork cap preload adjuster with cotter pin to allow for clearance of Cogent spacer. Install fork cap and reinstall forks into your bike. Install front wheel. Cycle the forks up and down a few times by holding bike stationary with the front brake before tightening axle pinch bolts. This assures fork alignment and function of front brake.
14. Ride and enjoy!

Special notes regarding custom tuning parameters:

The DDC unit has been carefully tested and calibrated to provide a complete engineered performance ride. Should you wish to make adjustments, all three of the below tuning factors will revise the overall fork performance.

1. Main spring rates, spring preload and oil height will be the most common factors to adjust to suit special needs. The recommended spring rates from Cogent Dynamics are considered a mid-range standard and some customers may choose to make alternate selections or adjustments.
2. Spring preload affects the front fork sag and the normal range of preload will be between 4mm – 15mm. Front sag should be near 30% of available fork travel. Stock travel for the DL is approximately 150mm.
3. The recommended 150-120mm oil height gives a good mid-range air column in the forks with an excellent progressive feel for most dual-sport riding. Less air column (higher oil level) will add bottoming resistance and provide a firmer ride feel. A lower level will provide a more linear wheel rate and a plusher ride. Acceptable range of oil level is 160-115mm.

Some customers may find that they have differing preferences and choose to experiment with variations of damping settings. The DDC system allows for wide latitude of adjustability (“re-valving”) where differing damping levels are desired.

Should you wish to revise the valving in your DDC, kits are available through Cogent Dynamics. Available options include: plush ride shim spindles, compression shim stack and a rebound spring kit. A full DDC tuning kit including all three of those items is available as the Pro-Tune Kit. Call for pricing and availability.

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