

Versys Swing-arm Swap

By: TonyBKK (Kawiforums.com)

I finally got around to installing the Versys Swing-arm on my ER-6N.



Was a bit more work than I expected on account of the terrible condition of the ER-6N's swing-arm shaft, sleeve and bearings. First thing to do was cut the old chain.

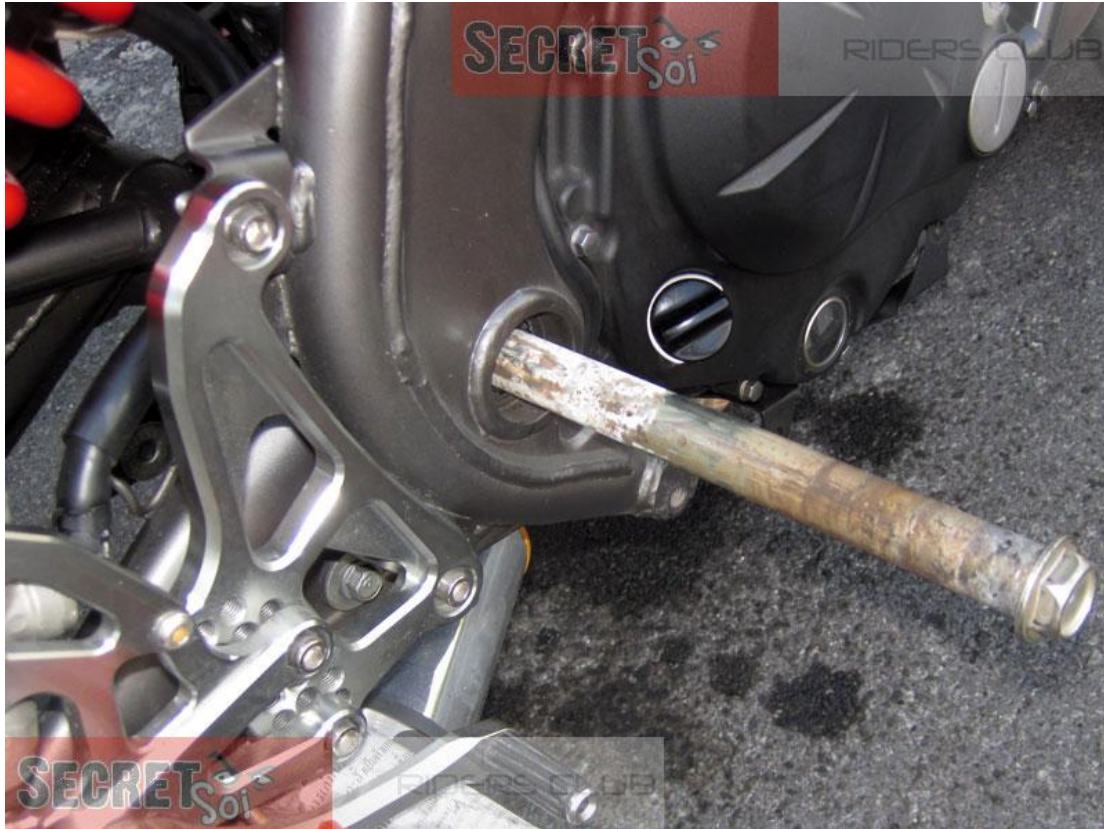
Kawasaki Ninja 650R (ER-6F) & ER-6N Resource



Remove rear wheel and rear brake line and caliper and detach shock from swing-arm.



Next step is to remove the swing-arm shaft and swing-arm. Bolt came off no problem but the dam shaft wouldn't budge. Finally managed to hammer it loose and this is what I saw.



Quite badly corroded. The shaft and sleeve had rusted together.

This is a 2009 model ER-6N! It only had about 9000km on the clock when I bought it.

The service manual does not call for periodic inspection or lubrication of these parts.

In fact the service manual says:

"Swing-arm Bearing Lubrication – NOTE: Since the bearings are packed with grease and sealed, lubrication is not required."

I wonder if it was just a bad seal on my bike or if this is something that everyone should check?

The swing-arm shaft.



The swing-arm sleeve and seal.



On the right side the collar and bearing were corroded.



Removed the RH seal.



To reveal the circlip and bearing under the collar.



A bit of a mess. The swing-arm was starting to rust and the ball bearing and needle bearing were contaminated.





So, off to Kawasaki to get all new parts for the Versys swingarm:

- Swing arm shaft and 20mm nut
- Swing arm sleeve
- 42 mm circlip
- 1 Ball bearing
- 3 Needle bearings
- 2 Oil seals
- Collar

Needed to visit Kawasaki as a special tool is required to install the needle bearings.



Discovered when I went to install the Versys swing-arm that it's wider than the ER-6N swing-arm and does not clear the right rearset, so I'll need to install some spacers.

Can't wait to try it out and will certainly let you know how it goes.

Kawasaki Ninja 650R (ER-6F) & ER-6N Resource



Oh, and FWIW the ER-6N/Ninja 650R steel swing-arm weighs about 6.1Kg.



The Versys aluminium swing-arm weighs in at about 4.9Kg.

Kawasaki Ninja 650R (ER-6F) & ER-6N Resource



Let the Good Times roll!

Tony