

Untitled

Roger Hulett

Joined: 31 May 2004

Posts: 140

Location: South West France

Posted: Sat May 03, 2008 11:07 am Post subject: Cylinder head gaskets

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Are there different sizes in cylinder head gaskets to suit bored out engines? I have just bought a 2nd hand head which came with a new CH gasket. I assembled the motor and found that the CH gasket fouled the pistons. After dismantling the motor I offered up the gasket to the pistons (40thou over) and found that they did not fit. Trying out the old gasket solved the problem, but why ???  
Roger Hulett

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dave bushell

Joined: 09 Jun 2004

Posts: 231

Location: Caterham, Surrey

Posted: Tue May 06, 2008 4:05 pm Post subject:

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Hi Roger

You probably have a 500cc (498cc) gasket instead of a 596cc one. All dimensions are the same except for the bore holes - about 7mm difference in diameter.  
Dave

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Roger Moss

Joined: 31 May 2004

Posts: 369

Location: Leicester UK

Posted: Wed May 07, 2008 8:23 pm Post subject: Tolerances

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I tend to use big 600 sizes and find that the current head gaskets do vary a bit. Holes for the 5/16" studs are punched 10mm, but even then sometimes I have to file them out a bit.  
There is usually so much clearance that you must drop the pistons in backwards without rings to locate the gasket before you tighten any nuts.  
On one occasion, I had to make a dummy piston with a lead on it to swage the copper back a little so the piston would clear. For the engineering minded, on my engines where I have to accurately position the contoured high compression head profiles, I counterbore the two extreme end holes and fit 10mm OD 8mm bore ring dowels, so I can be sure of position. The variation in the gaskets would indicate a manual operation rather than a CNC production method. Nobody promised it would be easy! Kindest Regards Roger