

DRESSING UP THE 1200GS FOR TOURING

Story and photos by Tom Hall #85169

Having recently purchased the R1200GS, which I believe to be one of the best BMW bikes on the road, I realized that I would like to put on some accessories to make the bike better for me. I have done the same for other bikes I have owned and was pleased with my selections to improve those bikes. With the new 1200GS I found it to be so good that I was limited to what I really wanted to do. I did find a few products that I liked that worked for me.

ZTechnik Windshield

As stated on their Web site, "The design of the new R1200GS windshield from ZTechnik comes straight off the Autobahn. Made about 2" (50mm) taller and 4" (50mm per side) wider, this wind-



shield is designed for highway wind and weather protection for the adventure rider who finds himself on the highway more than off road. Substantially improved airflow and wind protection are immediately evident with ZTechnik's new windshield." This is absolutely true!

"Beyond the increased size, this windshield is made from 4.5mm hard-coated Lexan® FMR polycarbonate sheet. It resists everyday scuffs and wears 100 times better than the stock shield. And as well, it is optically transparent. Your ability to see the road is not compromised with this high quality part.

The Z2242 windshield utilizes the BMW rake adjust mount point, which remains operational. The new size and optical quality of the Z2242 makes a measurable improvement over the stock screen!" Again, this is all true.

There are two choices to be made. The Z2242 model mentioned above and the adjustable Z2243 model, which is the choice I made.

With the adjustable model, "...you can adjust your windshield up to 3.2" (80mm) in rake, with no tools, directly from the rider's position with an easy push or pull of the articulating arm feature of this new windshield. This fast, easy to use mechanism transitions from road to city driving in a breeze.

Will there be rain ahead? Push the articulating arms forward and your windshield will take a full upright position. Set the stock BMW rake adjustment feature at the height you want and then use the arms to adjust to your actual riding conditions."



After spending some long hours riding with this superior windshield in all kinds of weather conditions I'm completely sold on their commitment to making quality and optical standards for their windshields. I rode at 70 mph on the freeway with the shield in the low position, and then raised my helmet shield up halfway. There was no wind. At the upper position I could lift the shield all the way up with little to no wind. ZTechnik has many other products for BMWs, so you might want to check their Web site (www.ZTechnik.com).

There are many other products out there for the 1200GS and these few products that I have chosen were for my safety and comfort while riding. Not everyone has the same bike and will want different products to fill their needs. It's up to you and your wallet to find what works best for you.

I am very pleased with the products I chose and how they have dressed up my bike.

Good luck and a have safe ride! ☺



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