

3rd

Show Chrome Wings

Value ●●●●○
Function Hot ●●●●○

Function Cold/Wet ●●●●○
Frontal Area ●●●●○

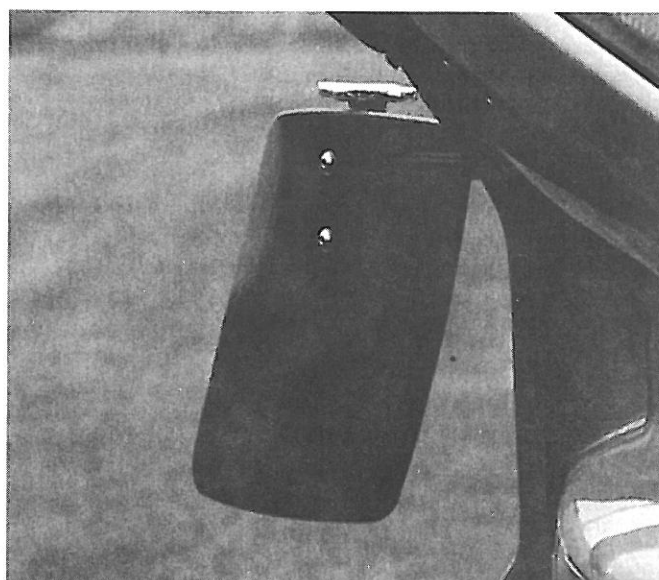
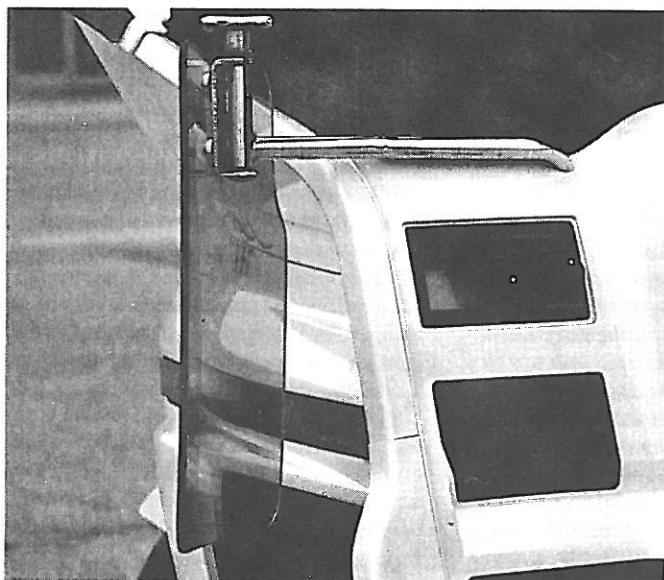
Big Bike Parts
2300 Pioneer Ave.
Rice Lake, WI 54868
(715) 234-6872

Price: \$65.95
Warranty: 6 months
Colors: dark teal, light teal, clear, charcoal, red, plum

Under most circumstances, the Show Chrome air deflectors would win our praise for good function and design. Unfortunately, they are judged against some very quality company here, and don't quite measure up to the competition.

On the plus side, these units have the lowest list price, a good selection of colors and a unique design with a notch cut out of the deflector to allow it to close up better against the fairing. On the downside, there is still significant air leakage even with the notched design, and the frontal area exposed to create drag is fairly large. In addition, our first two test units broke loose of their mounts when hit with the wind blast of passing semi-trucks. Since then, the manufacturer has sent us some new and improved mounting braces that are supposed to eliminate this problem.

In addition, the Show Chrome deflectors gave us adjustment troubles. If we tightened them up enough so they didn't change position in the wind, then we couldn't adjust them without loosening up the knobs again. A minor nit, but one the other manufacturers have already overcome.



4th

Markland Wind Wings

Value ●●●●○
Function Hot ●●●●○

Function Cold/Wet ●●●●○
Frontal Area ●●●●○

Markland Industries
15365 Barranca Parkway
Irvine, CA 92718
(714) 453-0531

Price: \$70.00
Warranty: 12 months
Colors: red, blue, smoke

Once the industry leader for quality Gold Wing accessories, Markland seems to have fallen behind the times, at least when it comes to air deflection devices. The Markland units left by far the largest gap for cold air to pass through when they were closed, yet also opened up for hot weather cooling only half as far as the top-rated Bakers. In addition, testers noted that their legs got wetter in the rain using the Marklands than with any other air deflector. To make matters worse, the Markland deflectors presented the largest frontal area for inducing drag, and also had the largest deviation in angle of deflection from the fairing airflow. Several testers noted that this combination seemed to create undue stress on the fairing at high speeds, and often caused the deflectors to vibrate and buzz annoyingly.

Though the price and the warranty offered with the Markland air deflectors are among the best, the choice of colors is limited and, in actual use, they were rated as relatively inefficient by all of the test personnel. Perhaps they work better on other makes of motorcycle, but on the GL1500, the Markland Wind Wings come up short.

