

SAVVA Technical Tip 146 – Fuel levels

Peter Vlietstra, who is a motorcycle guru was kind enough to send in the following tip:

Carburettor float levels have been a problem for years and here is a simple solution.

When your vehicle does not want to start, the most common cause is no petrol. Another common cause is flooding due to a sticking float valve. Both of these causes can be diagnosed with a simple carburettor fuel level indicator. The connection is a drilled-out stud. Since pressure is low, it is held in place with a back nut and sealed with a drop of Loctite. Although not essential, I made a right angle bend by brazing the hollow stud onto a piece of drilled out round bar. The petrol in the plastic pipe illustrates the fuel level.

I have this device fitted on two motorcycles that have these ancient carbs with primitive float valves. If the level is right, they normally start. If the level is not right, I don't even try to start them. It has saved me much KTM time. (KTM = Kick till Monday)

