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R6 & YFZ 350 SEAL HEAD REMOVAL

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The seal heads on the Yamaha Banshee and R6 are multi-piece and sandwiched between two circlips. There are some very expensive special tools to take these apart. There are also a couple of methods available to disassemble the shock without many special tools. Using the following method you are expected to replace the stock seal head with a Race Tech Seal Head SYSH 4014 (this is a single piece seal head). You will most likely destroy the upper wire retaining circlip. This is OK because you will only need one retaining circlip (the top one) with the new seal head.

1. Remove the spring.
2. Remove the End Cap from the shock. The End Cap is press fit into the body so tap upward at the seam where they meet with a sharp chisel.
3. Clean any dirt or corrosion on top of seal head.
4. Locate the gap in the circlip. Use a Dremel or porting tool with a small ball-end bit. Grind a depression in the top of the seal head next to the gap about the size of half a dime. Be sure this depression is lower than the bottom edge of the circlip. Note: Try not to grind body.
5. Put the shock in a vise. Bend the circlip into the depression with a small screwdriver.
6. Remove the top circlip by grabbing the seal head at the dust wiper with a pair of Channel Lock Pliers (remember the stock seal head is going to be replaced). Rotate the seal head. Take care to feed the circlip into the depression as you rotate the seal head. The circlip will unwind out of the groove.
7. Once the top circlip is removed pull up on the shock shaft. Grab the seal head with a pair of pliers and work it upward, out of the body.
8. Remove the rubber seal.
9. Remove the steel top-out plate (washer).
10. Remove the lower circlip with a small screwdriver.
11. Pull the shock shaft assembly out of the body and continue with the Gold Valve instructions.
12. When you assemble the shock with the Race Tech seal head, use only one circlip located in the top groove. You no longer need a circlip in the lower groove.