

Refreshing the K75 part 1: Fuel pump damper

Alright, folks. I've resolved to do a boatload of improvements and repairs to the 1987 K75, including new tires and brakes. Here's how she looks right now, halfway torn apart:



But before getting into the new brakes and tire replacement, I had a pressing issue: My fuel pump vibration damper was toasted, leaving little grubby, sticky black bits and pieces in the bottom of my fuel tank just waiting to clog up the fuel pump. I had noticed this when I replaced the fuel filter long ago. I figured the old fuel filter had become clogged by the gunk from the slowly dying damper. I wasn't going to let myself ride this summer until I replaced this damper, for fear the little black grubby bits would suddenly ruin my fuel pump and leave me with a much more expensive repair to do. The descriptions of this damper that I've been able to find say it's

"alcohol resistant," so hopefully today's ethanol supplemented gasoline won't eat it up like the last one.

I firstly found it curious that my new, \$98 damper (shipping was \$10 from my nearest BMW shop! WTF?) was shaped differently than the original item. Where the original was a circular design with six bolts, the new one had one flat side and one round side, with just five bolts. The numbers stamped on the rubber match the old part numbers, however. Maybe just a strange design evolution over the years?

Old:



New:



You can see the bits and pieces of nasty black tar-gunk in the fuel pump strainer basket and in the bottom of the tank-- the hole you see is where the fuel pump assembly sits. Until I pulled the pump assembly today, I didn't realize the strainer basket was in such bad shape (note the gunk AND the holes in the woven material), so I still need to call the dealer and order another one.

Basket-- note the torn places:



Inside the tank-- this is after I had cleaned out most of the black gunk. This is mostly stains it left behind:



Another thing I need to replace here: the hose that connects to the strainer basket. I guess after nearly 23 years, it's served its purpose:





As a side note, as you might be able to tell from my hands in the photos, the old damper material tends to turn into a nearly tar-like compound. It's darn near impossible to wash off your hands. I washed numerous times tonight, and even after showering and washing my hair (the customary man-friendly way to clean dirty fingertips and nails), there's still some black staining that just won't come off. Guess it'll wear away over the next few days!