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16th September 2014.

Twin Leading Shoe Front Brake Conversion on my Indian Chief.

Indian Chiefs are blessed with a lack of brakes, the front especially is a fictional slowing down device that with the addition of the rear brake and both feet scuffing on the road will slow you at a leisurely pace ready for the next stop sign or similar. Maggie and I have had quite a few 'close ones' on our Chief when anything more than slowing down pre planned braking is required.

Our friend Phil Pilgrim has developed a fabulous twin leading shoe brake conversion that offers a hugely wider brake drum coupled with a twin leader brake plate that is designed to accept a full twin leader brake set up from the Triumph 650's from 1969/70. This conversion doubles the brake shoe area and with the twin actuator arms gives a very strong brake.

Fitting the conversion was very straight forward. I had to cut a small semi circle on the edge of my front mudguard to clear one of the raised bosses that the brake arm comes through and did this with a special tool that I have and the alteration looks as if it was always there. (I can lend my tool out to anyone heavily boomeranged if they need it to do this modification or a file will suffice).

The front brake cable needed to be made up to suit, which was very simple and the job was done. Phil called me and inquired how the job was going and told me that I would need to run the brake in a little to get it to bed in nicely. We used Harris brake shoes which are very grippy. I took the bike up the road and casually grabbed the brake and thought I was going over the handlebars. It was fantastic, I reckon it pulled up better than the set up on a Triumph. I have to say I am really impressed and now have great stopping confidence and the set up looks excellent. Well done Phil!!

Yours in Indians,

Jonathan Munn