**AIRHEADS: WHY MOTOBATT AGM-LITHIUM HYBRID? 05 May, 2024**

The battery in your BMW is an energy storage device, and it has two separate functions. One, and the one that is most important to us, is starting the engine. The other is to act as a sort of buffer or cushion for the charging system as the vehicle RPM vary, lights are switched on and off. ABS is activated, etc. For starting, we need Cold Cranking Amps, or CCA, available all at once in a rush as the starter engages to turn the engine. For what we call the Household Load, lights, ABS, Ignition, etc., we need a much lower amount of available energy, because the running engine has the charging system providing all of that electricity already.

In the days before Lithium and other new-generation battery technologies, a battery used a stack of lead plates in electrolyte and there had to be enough to meet all of the requirements from one battery. Now we have battery technologies that can deliver a whopping CCA, while being small and providing a much lower energy supply as adjunct to the on-board charging system. The advantage of the Lithium/AGM Hybrid battery type is that we can have both in a lightweight battery that will work with the OEM charging and ignition systems. As a bonus, it also reduces the voltage fluctuations that were seen with lead-acid and AGM batteries, that can damage sensitive electronic components.

The trade-off is cost. A Lithium/AGM Hybrid at this point can cost double the price of a conventional AGM battery, and three times the older-tech lead-acid "slosh" battery. MotoBatt realized that would make for a hard sell. I proposed to them that they offer a longer battery warranty period through their authorized dealers, who would handle the testing and verification duties that such a program might necessitate. That is the way that they have agreed to market their product in the USA. The high-volume discounter dealers don't like it, because they can't just blow off warranty claims and keep their dealer status. Established dealers welcome the arrangement, because they know that MotoBatt makes good products, and their US distributor stands behind their dealers.

I was the FIRST US MotoBatt dealer, just because I was the first to sign on with them on the first day that they began promoting their product line at the DealerNews Expo in Indianapolis some 16 years ago. At that first meeting, I told them that they could triple sales of their MB51814 battery by shaving the case ribs by 2.5 mm, which would allow them to fit BMW Oilhead and K models as well as late-model Airheads. That simple change let us offer a battery with 21% more CCA for cold starting. Overnight, the issue of BMW R1100 and R1150 models having the ABS fail to initialize on cold start was cured. Since then, I've sold hundreds of MotoBatt batteries for BMWs, and my customers have been satisfied with all aspects, even those few who needed warranty adjustment.

I run the MH51814 in my 2022 R1250RS and am about to install one in my 2014 RNineT.

I believe in the product. I offer BOTH because some of my customers are driven by low prices and the AGM version fills that need.

Remember that the OEM BMW battery never actually "did the job." When a battery runs low during cranking the engine, the current draw increases dramatically, welding relay points, and shortening the starter and relay life. Since I've been selling the MotoBatt to my clients, starter and relay sales have dropped noticeably.

That's the "why." The decision is yours. Whatever you select, I will give you dealer support until your warranty expires and beyond. That is my promise. I won't come to your house and wash your bike, though. ;)

We (MotoBatt and I as their representative) remind you that we have AGM fitments for all BMW motorcycles currently and recently produced (back to 1960, at least!)

I do sales the old-fashioned way: Tell me what bike you have, and I’ll recommend the correct MotoBatt AGM or Hybrid AGM/Lithium MotoBatt battery. You’ll get full two-year Warranty coverage, handled through me.

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Tom Cutter  
Yardley, PA

[www.RubberChickenRacingGarage.com](http://www.RubberChickenRacingGarage.com)