

Givi V35G730 PLX side luggage for the BMW K1200S

by Harry Burney

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Review of luggage options for the K1200S

BMW offers their Sports Pannier System as an accessory for the K1200S, K1200R, and K1200R Sport at a cost of about \$1000. SW-MOTECH offers rear and side luggage metal racks for the K1200S to mount Givi Monokey, TraX ALU-BOX, Kappa, Hepco & Becker, and Krauser hard luggage. But because the side racks are located at the outside edge of the muffler, it causes the side luggage to be mounted quite high and very



Photo 1 K1200S with BMW sports & SW Motech racks & H&B cases (rt)

[2004 promotional photo by BMW (left) & Twisted Throttle photo (rt)]

panniers (lt)

wide on the motorcycle as shown in Photos 1 and 2. I was looking for something larger than the BMW panniers, but not something so large as the Hepco and Becker side cases shown in photo 1.



Photo 2 SW-MOTECH luggage rack system for K1200S [2006 photos by SW-MOTECH]

Givi offers their V35G730 PLX-Style side luggage, which better fits the rear profile of many motorcycles including the BMW R1200R and the Yamaha FZ6, as shown in Photo 3. Each side case has a 34-35 liter capacity, weighs about nine pounds, and is designed to carry about 22 pounds. The size of this luggage and the contoured fit was exactly what I was looking for, but unfortunately, neither Givi, SW-MOTECH, nor anyone else as far as I know, makes a rack to mount Givi V35 PLX luggage on a K1200S. [Note: BMW may have a new luggage system for the 2009 K1300S]



Photo 3 Givi V35 PLX on BMW R1200R (lt) & Yamaha FZ6 (rt) [Twisted Throttle photos]

Custom installation of Givi V35G730 PLX-Style side luggage to the K1200S

The author purchased mounting racks designed for the Givi V35 PLX luggage and modified them to fit to the K1200S. The cost for the cases and racks, including shipping and tax was about \$680. Custom mounting of the racks are shown in Photos 4 and 5. There was no cutting of any body panels on the motorcycle and, as indicated by



Photo 4 Left side rack custom mounted on author's K1200S



Photo 5 Right side rack custom mounted on author's K1200S

Photo 6, the rear turn signals are still in the stock location with the luggage racks installed and the V35 cases mounted on the K1200S. With the V35 cases installed and shut, the maximum width is about 40 inches. The maximum width of the K1200S at the stock mounted mirrors is about 36 inches. The clearance between the top of the muffler and the bottom of the right side case is about two inches. The author is pleased with his Givi V35 side luggage and has tested it on trips to New Mexico and Colorado. As to the looks of this luggage mounted on the K1200S, he has received positive feedback from several San Antonio BMW Riders Association club members.



Photo 6 Author's K1200S with Givi V35 PLX cases



Harry Burney is a retired chemical engineer. He worked for Dow Chemical in process research for 32 years. He is active in Lions Club and in the San Antonio BMW Riders Association. He has ridden motorcycles since 1971 and BMW's since 1999. Harry owns a red 1999 K1200RS and a 2008 K1200S. The author can be contacted at Email: hsbjk12s@earthlink.net for additional information on this article.

Photo 7 The author during early testing on Texas FM 335 in July 2008