

{ CRD CRF RADIATOR BRACE }

Insurance for your radiators

WHAT IS IT? Have you priced a radiator lately? Anything that guards them is worthwhile.

WHAT'S IT COST?
\$87.99—(888) 963-1212.

WHAT'S IT DO? It's no real secret that Honda CRF radiators are susceptible to damage. The radiator itself is built adequately, but its lack of support is scary. Radiators used to be completely covered by the radiator shrouds. That just isn't the case anymore. Look at the KX-F/RM-Z and CRF's. There's a ton of radiator hanging below their radiator shroud. One good crash and you're looking at emptying your wallet to the tune of about \$300. Why are the factories doing this? Is it a top-secret plot to extract more money out of the consumer? Absolutely not. It's all about styling, weight savings and air flow. Four-strokes tend to run hot, and the more plastic you have blocking air from going through the radiator, the hotter things can get.

The tradeoff is: heat or protection.

WHAT STANDS OUT? Here's a list of things that stand out with CRD's CRF radiator brace.

(1) Quality. Stamped out of a thin sheet of aluminum, the CRD radiator brace has a nice simple shape with



Turtle shell: The CRD radiator brace surrounds the radiator, but never touches it.

enough holes in it to flow air.

(2) Installation. In the past, we've had a few problems getting radiator braces to line up with the radiator and with the radiator shroud. With the CRD radiator brace, it was easy. All we had to do was unscrew a few bolts, slide the CRD radiator brace into place and bolt it back up. It takes about 15 minutes.

(3) Protection. They work. We've gone through plenty of CRF450 radiators over the last four years. This year, though we've crashed plenty of times, we haven't had to replace a single CRF radiator—thanks to the CRD radiator brace.

WHAT'S THE SQUAWK? Braces add weight. Not a ton, but

when the manufacturers are doing everything humanly possible to lighten the bikes, it seems counterproductive to add weight.



Knee damage: The CRD radiator brace works best against side impacts.

Outside view: Most radiator braces are hidden, the CRD isn't.

MXA RATING



Radiators have always been damage-prone, but on the current crop of four-strokes, things have gotten worse. Do yourself a favor. Get a CRD radiator brace.

★★★★★ = el supremo, ★★★★★ = stellar, ★★★★★ = full value, ★★★★★ = useful, but flawed, ★ = dumpster food