

RACE TECH

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SK code

SHOCK GOLD VALVE INSTALLATION - STREET / ROAD RACE 44mm

<IP SMGV S4401.doc> **SMGV S4401** P Thede © 4.22.10

5 pgs

TOOLS REQUIRED: Metric Micrometer, Calipers or a Metric Ruler, Torque Wrench, High Pressure Nitrogen (regulated) or dry air, High Pressure Gauge, Air Chuck or Nitrogen Needle, Bench Grinder, Numbered Drill Set, Drill Motor, Metric Thread Pitch Gage, Seal Head Tool (TSSS 01), Valve Core Removal Tool, Safety Glasses, Sag Master (TSSM 01)

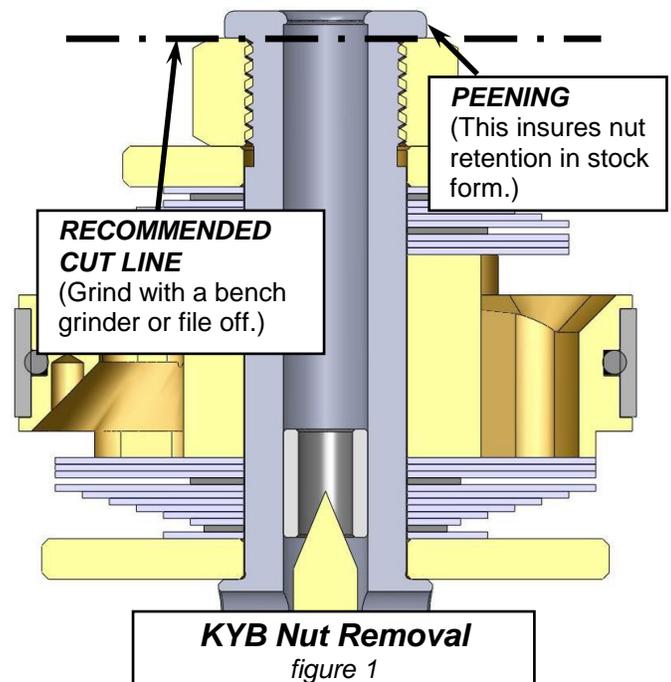
PARTS REQUIRED: Shock Fluid - Race Tech Ultra Slick Fluids are preferred, Loctite 271 (Red – High Strength).

NOTE: Some riders will require a new spring. Consult www.racetech.com or call Race Tech.

CAUTION: IF YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH REBUILDING AND REVALVING THIS SHOCK ABSORBER, STOP!!! DO NOT PROCEED; SEEK OUT A QUALIFIED SUSPENSION TECHNICIAN.

DISASSEMBLY

- 1 **Remove the shock from the bike and clean it** thoroughly. Check and record the compression and rebound adjustment settings. Back both adjustments out all the way. Measure and record the set length (installed length) of the spring. Remove the spring.
- 2 **Follow standard rebuild procedures as outlined in your maintenance manual. Use safety glasses. Begin disassembly** by clamping the shock in a vise. Remove the nitrogen and the valve core (if applicable). If your shock has a bladder, remove it by first depressing the bladder cap about 10mm (7/16") to expose the circlip. You can place a socket over the valve stem and tap on the socket to avoid bending the stem. Remove the circlip, then the cap with the bladder attached.
- 3 **Remove the end cap** from the shock body. There are two basic types: screwed-on and pressed-on. Most KYB's use the pressed-on type and must be tapped off with a sharp chisel. Tap it off evenly.
- 4 Once removed, the seal head assembly must be depressed. Using the Seal Head Tool (TSSS 01) is much easier. This will expose the circlip. **Remove the circlip** with a small screwdriver.
- 5 Next **remove the shaft assembly** from the body by gently tapping upward on the shaft eyelet with a plastic mallet. Pour out the old fluid and dispose of properly. Clean the body with solvent and set it aside to dry.
- 6 **CAUTION: THIS NEXT STEP IS CRITICAL AND SHOULD ONLY BE DONE BY A QUALIFIED SUSPENSION TECHNICIAN. Remove the nut.** You must first grind or file away the peening on the end of the shaft. This peening is there to insure that the nut does not come off during use. (figure 1)
- 7 **Disassemble the valving stack**, lay it out in the exact order and orientation that it comes off the shaft. Clean all the parts including the inside of the shock shaft where the rebound mechanism is. Blow it out using compressed air, being sure to wear safety glasses.
- 8 **Clean and inspect all the parts** including the seal, the shaft, shaft bushing, o-rings and the bottom-out bumper. If the bottom-out bumper is cracked or worn, replace it. Grease the seal and reassemble the shaft up to the base plate. Surface and clean the base plate and install it on the shaft. **NOTE:** On some models there is a Base Plate Washer that goes on the shaft before the base plate and it must be reinstalled.



VALVING SELECTION

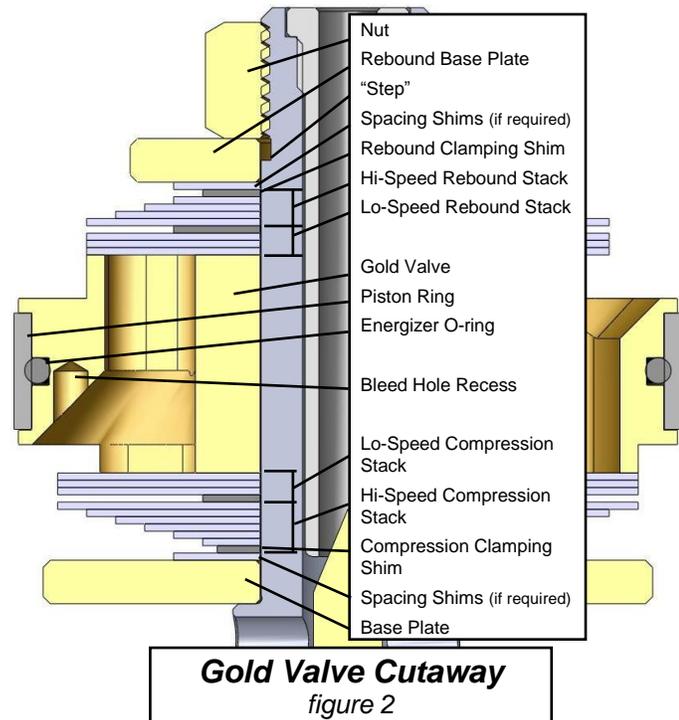
- 9 To obtain custom valving settings for your particular application log on to www.racetech.com, go to Digital Valving Search, insert your Access Code (printed on the top of the first page), input your personal specifications and print the custom setup information. If you do not have access to the web contact our Technical Support Hotline 951.279.6655 for recommendations. Note: The Access Code is good for one limited-time use.
- 10 **Build the Compression Valving Stack.** The total Compression Valving Stack is a combination of the Low-Speed Compression Stack (if required) and the High-Speed Compression Stack. First, install the High-Speed Compression Stack on the shaft starting with the smallest diameter valve against the Base Plate. Next place the Low-Speed Compression Stack (if required) on the shaft starting with the small diameter shim and ending with the largest diameter shim against the Gold Valve piston face.
- 11 **If required, drill the recommended bleed hole in the piston.** Some bikes do not require a bleed hole. **IF YOUR APPLICATION DOES NOT REQUIRE A BLEED, IT WILL SAY "n/a".** If your application does require a bleed, drill the bleed hole starting from the pre-drilled side.

- 12 **Check to see there are no burrs** on the Gold Valve Shock Piston and the piston faces are flat. If required, surface the piston on a piece of plate glass with 320 grit (very fine) sandpaper (the piston is surfaced from the factory but check it every time you disassemble the valving.) Install the Gold Valve on the shaft with the large diameter ports facing down towards the compression stack (the head or slotted side on the jet will also be facing towards the compression stack).
- 13 **Build the Rebound Stack.** The total Rebound Valving Stack is a combination of the Low-Speed Rebound Stack and the High-Speed Rebound Stack. First, install the Low-Speed Rebound Stack on the shaft with the largest diameter valve against the piston face. Then install the High-Speed Rebound Stack on the shaft starting with the largest shim and ending with the smallest diameter shim. Sometimes only a High-Speed Rebound Stack is required, if this is the case, only the High-Speed Stack should be installed.

- 14 **THIS NEXT STEP IS CRITICAL!!!! You must stack up the total valving thickness so the rebound base plate (very thick washer) straddles the step at the end of the straight part of the shaft (before the threads begin). This means when the rebound base plate is installed, the lip on the shaft is not sticking up higher than the base plate. This also means the rebound clamping shim (the last shim installed on the shaft before the rebound base plate) is below the height of the lip before the base plate is installed (the shaft must stick up higher than the rebound clamping shim before the rebound base plate is installed).** (figure 2)

*** To add to the thickness of the valving stack you can use some of the original valving shims or add flat washers. Be sure the shims are all larger in diameter than the clamping shim (the last rebound shim, farthest away from the piston). If any of the shims or additional washers are smaller in diameter than the clamping shim it will decrease rebound damping. DO NOT PUT SHIMS BELOW THE COMPRESSION BASE PLATE!**

- 15 **Select the proper nut.** On KYB and Showa there are two different threads used. In general, KYB uses a coarser 12x1.5mm thread and Showa uses a finer 12x1.25mm thread. Use a metric thread pitch gage to check the thread pitch. Both are supplied in the kit so use care when selecting the proper nut. **IMPORTANT: If you aren't sure of your nut selection, seek out someone that can assist you. This is critical!!! Select the proper nut, clean the threads thoroughly, use Loctite 271 and torque the nut to 25 ft-lbs (34 NM).**
- 16 Hold the completed valving assembly up to the light and **visually inspect the stack.** Check for dirt or any irregularities in the stack. Check the crossover gaps between the low-Speed and high-Speed damping stacks. Check to make sure the valves are seating flat against the piston face. If anything looks abnormal, disassemble the valving and look for dirt, burrs on the valve or even burrs on the shims. Once corrected, reassemble and inspect again.
- 17 **Install the Piston Ring Energizer O-ring** (supplied in the kit) onto the Gold Valve Shock Piston. Do not re-use the stock o-ring. Be sure the O-ring sits all the way down into the groove and install the new piston ring.



REASSEMBLY

- 18 **Begin reassembling the shock.** Make sure everything is clean. Clamp the shock body in the vise and fill the reservoir with the proper fluid. If it is a bladder style shock, install the bladder on the cap with the nitrogen valve core installed. Install the bladder assembly into the reservoir, making sure there is enough fluid in the reservoir so the fluid overflows as the bladder is inserted. Push the cap down far enough to expose the circlip groove and install the circlip. Gently pressurize the bladder with 40 psi (2.8 bar) of air (don't worry air is fine). This will expand the bladder and push extra fluid through the compression adjuster valve. Leave the reservoir pressurized to 40 psi.
- 19 **Fill the body** most of the way with fluid. **Install the shock shaft** assembly into the body, holding the piston ring in place as you insert it into the fluid. The shaft should go into the body relatively easily. If it does not, the o-ring is probably incorrect, call Race Tech if this occurs. **Bleed the bubbles** past the piston by stroking the shock quickly and forcefully on compression and pulling up slowly on rebound. Quickly on compression to open the valving allowing the trapped air to get out. Slowly on rebound or bubbles will form behind the piston as you pull the shaft up.
- 20 **FOR BLADDER TYPE SHOCKS** - When you are done bleeding the shock, extend the shaft almost all the way out (do not let it suck air through the rebound feed hole or you must start bleeding again). Top off the shock with fluid and push the seal head down the shaft and into the oil using the Race Tech Seal Head Tool. Oil will overflow as the seal head goes down the shaft, until the seal head o-ring seals on the shock body. At this point, keep pressure on the seal head and depress the valve core on the reservoir allowing the air to escape and the seal head to go into the shock body.
- 21 Push the seal head past the circlip groove and **install the circlip**. Pressurize the reservoir with 20 psi (1.4 bar) to seat the seal head on the circlip. Visually check to see that it is seated properly and install the end cap with a plastic mallet or screw it on, depending on the particular type you have. Double check the piston location if it is a "piston type" reservoir. **Pressurize the reservoir** to 200 psi (13.7 bar) with nitrogen or dry air. Stroke the shock through its travel making sure it rebounds to full extension. If it does not, stop, disassemble and inspect the shock.
- 22 Grease the threads on the spring adjuster, **adjust the spring preload** and tighten the locking collar. **Set the compression and rebound adjusters** according to your Digital Valving Setup Sheet.
- 23 **Reinstall the shock** on the bike taking care to service the heim joints and the linkage (what the heck, might as well). Set the Static "Race" Sag to one quarter to one third of the total travel (25-35mm or 1 to 1 3/8" on most bikes). A Race Tech Sag Master p/n TSSM 01 makes the job easy. Check that there is 0 to 5mm (0 to 1/4") of Free Sag (unladen sag) when there is no one aboard and it does not "top-out" hard (with a noticeable thud). If it "tops-out" hard you need a heavier spring. If there is more than 8mm (5/16") of Free Sag you need a lighter spring.
- 24 On the first laps of riding, **use caution, get used to the new feel** of the bike and reset the adjustments according to standard testing procedure. Enjoy!

Visit www.racetech.com, go to Digital Valving Search with your Access Code (from the top of page 1) for your personal computer calculated valving setup!

Sign up for Race Tech News for the latest innovations like the ShockClock Suspension Setup Tool at www.racetech.com.

VALVING SELECTION - STREET / ROAD RACE - SMGV S4401

Welcome to the wonderful world of Gold Valving. To obtain your personal Custom Suspension Settings:

1. Log on to our website at www.racetech.com
2. Go to Digital Valving Search (DVS)
3. Input your Access Code when prompted (your Code is printed on top of page 1 of these instructions)
4. Input your personal specifications
5. Print your Custom Suspension Setup

If you do not have access to the Internet contact our Technical Support Hotline 951.279.6655 for recommendations. Note: The Access Code is good for one bike, limited-time use.

Once you have your valving settings, build your valving stacks. The total Compression Valving Stack is a combination of the Low-Speed Compression Stack (if required) placed on top of the High-Speed Compression Stack. (If no Low-Speed Stack is required it will say "n/a" in the space marked "cL".)

The total Rebound Valving Stack is a combination of the Low-Speed Rebound Stack (if required) and the High-Speed Rebound Stack.

EXAMPLE: **COMPRESSION**

The Total Compression Valving Stack is cL5 and cH2:

Starting from the Gold Valve piston face

Low-Speed Compression Stack – cL5

- (5) 0.20x38
- (1) 0.15x23

High-Speed Compression Stack – cH2

- (1) 0.25x38
- (1) 0.25x34
- (1) 0.25x30
- (1) 0.25x28
- (1) 0.25x26
- (1) 0.25x24
- (1) 0.25x18

REBOUND

The Total Rebound Stack is "n/a" and rH7:

Starting from the Gold Valve piston face

Low-Speed Rebound Stack – "n/a"

This means use the High-Speed Stack Only

High-Speed Rebound Stack – rH7

- (4) 0.25x34
- (1) 0.25x30
- (1) 0.25x28
- (1) 0.25x26
- (1) 0.25x24
- (1) 0.25x22

BLEED, EXTERNAL ADJUSTERS, SPRING RATE, and PRELOAD are all listed on the Digital Valving Search on www.racetech.com.

(Double-check your Preload by measuring Static "Race" Sag when the shock is installed on the bike.)

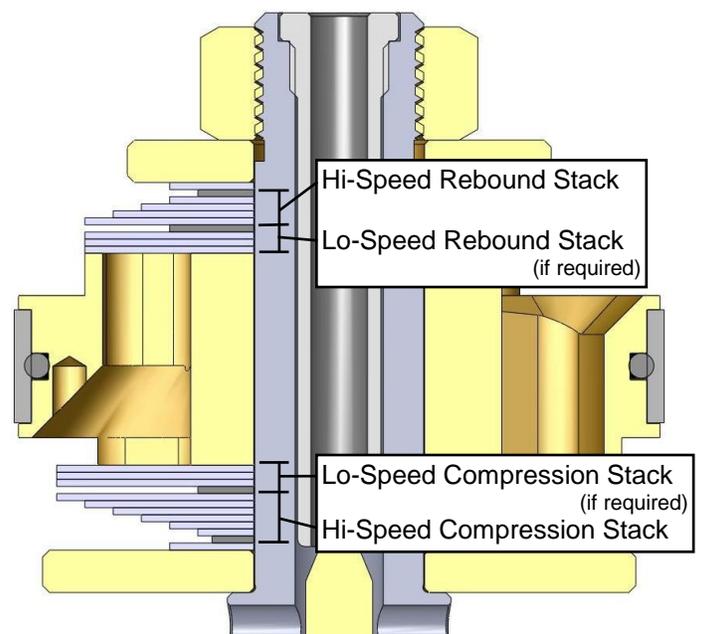
NOTE: All measurements are metric (if you want inches simply divide the numbers by 25.4). The valving list starts at the piston face and goes towards the base plate. Valve specs are listed by (QUANTITY) THICKNESS x DIAMETER. If there is a number in parentheses that means quantity. If there is no number in parentheses the quantity is one. Example: (2).20x40 means quantity two, 20 hundredths of a millimeter thick by 40 millimeters in diameter.

TUNING NOTES

Damping is sensitive to vertical wheel velocity, not position in the stroke. Please feel free to use the compression damping adjuster. Please note that on some shocks it has very little affect. The closer to maximum damping (full clockwise) the more effect one click makes. In other words going from 3 to 2 out has a lot more effect than going from 14 to 13 out. If your valving needs to be stiffer internally, move to the right. This will increase damping.

Spring rate is dependent mostly on rider and bike weight. Spring Rate, Spring Preload and Low-Speed Compression Damping all affect wallow and bottoming.

If you would like assistance please contact the Technical Support Hotline 951.279.6655.



SHOCK GOLD VALVE CHART – STREET / ROAD RACE 44mm (38/34)

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LOW-SPEED COMPRESSION VALVING

STIFFER →

cL1*	cL2	cL3	cL4	cL5	cL6	cL7	cL8	cL9	cL10
(2).15x38	(2).20x38	(3).20x38	(4).20x38	(5).20x38	(6).20x38	(7).20x38	(8).20x38	(9).20x38	(10).20x38
.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23	.15x23
cL11	cL12	cL13	cL14	cL15*	cL16*	cL17*	cL18*	cL19*	cL20*
(8).20x38	(9).20x38	(10).20x38	(11).20x38	(12).20x38	(13).20x38	(14).20x38	(15).20x38	(16).20x38	(17).20x38
.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26	.15x26

HIGH-SPEED COMPRESSION VALVING

STIFFER →

CH1	CH2	CH3	CH4	CH5	CH6	CH7	CH8	CH9	CH10
.20x38	.25x38	.25x38	.25x38	.25x38	(2).25x38	(3).25x38	(4).25x38	(4).25x38	(5).25x38
.25x34	.25x34	.25x36							
.25x30	.25x30	.25x34							
.25x28	.25x28	.25x30							
.25x26	.25x26	.25x28							
.25x24	.25x24	.25x26							
.25x18	.25x18	.25x24							
		.25x18	.25x19	.25x20	.25x20	.25x20	.25x20	.25x21	.25x21
CH11	CH12	CH13	CH14	CH15	CH16	CH17*	CH18*	CH19*	
(6).25x38	(4).25x38	(5).25x38	(6).25x38	(7).25x38	(8).25x38	(5).30x38	(6).30x38	(7).30x38	
.25x36									
.25x34									
.25x30									
.25x28									
.25x26									
.25x24									
.25x21	.25x23								

COMPRESSION

LOW-SPEED REBOUND VALVING

SLOWER →

rL1	rL2	rL3	rL4	rL5	rL6	rL7*	rL8*	rL9*	rL10*
(1).20x34	(2).20x34	(3).20x34	(4).20x34	(5).20x34	(6).20x34	(7).20x34	(8).20x34	(9).20x34	(10).20x34
.10x23									
rL11*	rL12*	rL13*	rL14*	rL15*	rL16*	rL17*	rL18*	rL19*	rL20*
(4).30x34	(5).30x34	(6).30x34	(7).30x34	(5).30x34	(6).30x34	(7).30x34	(8).30x34	(9).30x34	(10).30x34
.10x23	.10x23	.10x23	.10x23	.10x26	.10x26	.10x26	.10x26	.10x26	.10x26

HIGH-SPEED REBOUND VALVING

SLOWER →

rH1	rH2	rH3	rH4	rH5	rH6	rH7	rH8	rH9	rH10
.25x34	.25x34	.25x34	.25x34	(2).25x34	(3).25x34	(4).25x34	(4).25x34	(5).25x34	(6).25x34
.25x30									
.25x28									
.25x26									
.25x20	.25x24								
	.25x20	.25x21	.25x22	.25x22	.25x22	.25x22	.25x23	.25x23	.25x23
rH11*	rH12*	rH13*	rH14*	rH15*	rH16*	rH17*	rH18*	rH19*	rH20*
(3).30x34	(4).30x34	(5).30x34	(6).30x34	(7).30x34	(4).38x34	(5).38x34	(6).38x34	(7).38x34	(8).38x34
.25x30									
.25x28									
.25x26									
.25x24									

REBOUND

BLEED HOLE (must be drilled if required)

SLOWER →

2.6mm	2.5mm	2.4mm	2.2mm	2.1mm	1.9mm	1.8mm	1.6mm	1.3mm	1.0mm
#38	#40	#42	#44	#46	#48	#50	#52	#55	#60

* SHIMS NOT PROVIDED IN STANDARD KIT (please call)

SHIM SIZING: (QUANTITY) THICKNESS x DIAMETER in mm (for inches divide by 25.4)