

PRODUCT REVIEWS

Digital Guard Dawg's Personal Recognition System

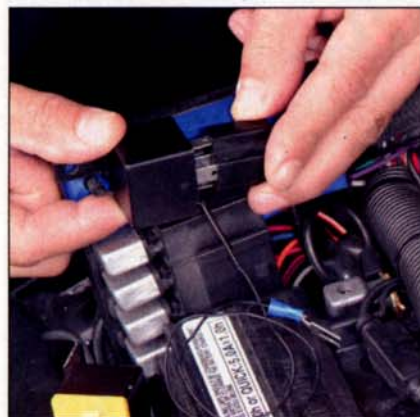
Added security for your bike

story and photography by Steve Bohn

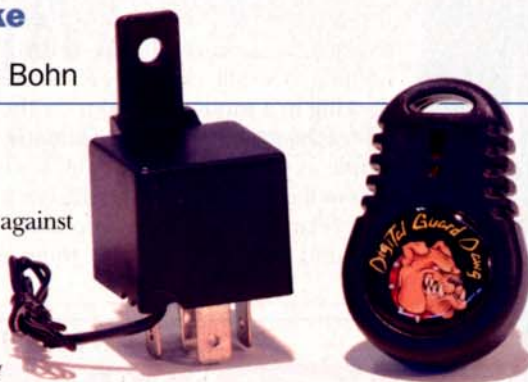
There are no time-outs in the fight against bike thieves. There are no sure-fire defenses either, but you can stack the odds in your favor with countermeasures like the Personal Recognition System from Digital Guard Dawg, a plug-and-play security device designed to add another layer of security to your Harley. The Guard Dawg relies on a technology called RFID (radio frequency identification device) to keep your bike's starter from turning over the engine unless you authorize it.

Guard Dawg's CEO, Bruce McKinley, has worked with RFID technology for a dozen years, manufacturing and supplying RFID devices to the automotive industry, with well over 200,000 units on the road. For the last year or so, he has worked with some of the best people in the automotive and motorcycle electronic industry to apply his technology to the motorcycle market, and from what I have seen he's right on target. This technology is similar to that being used on new Harley-Davidsons, as well as new Corvette, Lexus and Mercedes luxu-cars.

The concept behind the Digital Guard Dawg is simple. You replace your stock starter relay with the one from Guard Dawg, attach one wire from it to a 12-volt



The Guard Dawg relay is connected to the OEM wiring harness.

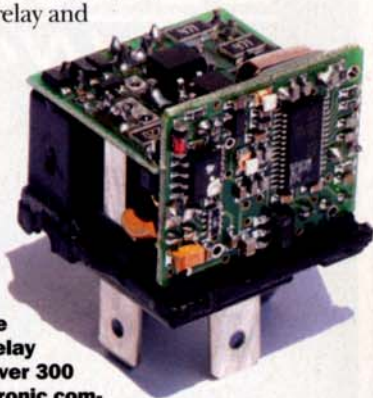


Guard Dawg's Personal Recognition System consists of a starter relay (left) and Dawg Tag (right), which communicate with each other. The beauty of the system is in its simplicity.

source, activate the Dawg Tag, and you're done.

For the starter relay to engage the starter, the Dawg Tag must be present, within 10 feet. If the Dawg Tag is not present, or is motionless for more than two minutes, the bike's starter will not operate. To make it operate, you can either walk up to your bike with the Dawg Tag attached to your clothing, or shake the Dawg Tag. This creates a truly hands-free, keyless ignition system. If your bike has a keyed ignition system, you no longer need to lock and unlock it because your bike simply will not start without the Dawg Tag.

The system works on a wide range of models and years from 1985-2007 Harley-Davidsons, as well as Victorys, Indians, and most other American V-twins and customs, including metric bikes. The basic Harley kit retails for \$149 and includes one relay and one



Inside the relay are over 300 electronic components working together to communicate with the Dawg Tag. The relay unit is filled with an epoxy material to provide vibration damping.

Dawg Tag that communicate with each other. There are billions of possible codes, so there is no need to worry about someone else's Dawg Tag operating your relay. Guard Dawg also offers additional relays if you have more than one bike but want to have only one Dawg Tag, as well as additional Dawg Tags to keep as spares.

Currently, owners of 2004-2007 FLHR C/I and 2007 FLHX models will have to shell out an additional \$12 for a harness adapter, required due to a change Harley made with the relay's footprint. Shortly after you read this, the company will be offering a relay that will no longer need this adapter cable for these models.

Installation of the system can be handled by pretty much anyone capable of locating and replacing the stock starter relay, crimping a wire terminal, and connecting it to a 12-volt source. As there are no wires to cut or splice, installation is very simple. I installed one on a 1999 Softail in about 15 minutes including five minutes to activate and test the system. Different bikes have their starter relays in different locations; for problem-free installation, make sure to consult the manual for your particular application.

My Guard Dawg system works like a charm. While there is no one way to make sure your bike never gets stolen, the more you do to keep thieves from taking it, the better your chances are of having a ride home. ☺

For further information contact Digital Guard Dawg, 916-337-1040, www.digitalguarddawg.com.