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The BDCW's ULTIMATE Skid Plate for the KTM 1190 Survival Armor for Your Steed

by Dan DiMaio

There are skid plates and there are *Black Dog Cycle Works ULTIMATE Skid Plates*. Most skid plates you come across are more fashion than function. And, what good is a fashion statement if it can't get you safely back? The folks at BDCW are riders, too, and they took out all the stops to create a skid plate that protects your engine from front to back.

What sets the BDCW plate apart from others is the use of hefty 5mm-thick aluminum, full engine coverage (including the headers), and its mounting to the frame—not the engine. BDCW also utilizes a hard rubber bumper *Shok-Blok* that provides additional shock absorption and cuts down on the hollow sound some skid plates emit. The BDCW plate is heavy; but when you think about its purpose and what it must withstand, the functionality is worth the weight—that extra metal will definitely protect your \$17,000+ machine, too.

A unique feature of BDCW's big KTM versions, and one of the company's claims to engineering fame, is the *Side Stand Relocation Kit* that comes with the skid plate. Many KTM owners don't realize that their side stand is mounted to the engine, and that if it takes a rock, or even if you mount the bike from the left side a little too enthusiastically, it could rip a hole in your engine. BDCW's patented design repositions the side stand so that can't happen. You simply remove the stock peg mount, replace it with the BDCW mount, re-attach the foot peg, and

remount the side stand to the specially designed bracket. Although this is a brilliant solution, I didn't like the lean angle of the bike once it was relocated*. (Note: BDCW's co-owner, Kurt Forg t, informed me that there is an optional bracket that gives a little more lean angle.)

Other unique features include a simple four-bolt removal process for quick oil changes; it's made in U.S.; and instead of paint or an anodized coating it's powder- and clear-coated (I'd like to see a black version). If you like riding gnarly terrain, then do yourself a favor, install a BDCW ULTIMATE Skid Plate on your machine—think of it as cheap insurance that'll save you a pile of money in the end. **MSRP: \$550 BlackDogCW.com**

PROS

- Best protection money can buy
- Center stand friendly
- Made in the U.S.

CONS

- Not enough lean angle with relocation plate provided*
- It's heavy

*As we go to press, BDCW has announced a redesign of their KTM 1290 and 1190 ULTIMATE Skid Plates. We don't have the specifics other than they will include improvements to their *Side Stand Relocation Kit* along with a more ventilated design. For more information, contact Kurt at BDCW.

