

Annoying Fuel Light

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As most of you know, the fuel light seems to come on too early even when there seems to be plenty of gas left. I wanted to know how much fuel is in the tank when the light comes on and is there a way to modify the fuel sensor. Well, I conducted an experiment and made a change to the fuel level sensor that you may be interested in.

I levelled the bike and siphoned out fuel until the light came on. I pulled off the tank, removed the fuel pump and measured the remains, 0.9 gallons (US), there was a little left in tank I could not remove, and so let's say one gallon.

The sensor is mounted on the end of a support, (see picture), and held in place with a spring type hose clamp. Notice the small tabs under the sensor, I bent these over and lowered the sensor about 1/8" (see picture).

I reinstalled the clamp, pump & tank, added a few gallons of fuel and started over. I siphoned fuel until the light came on, removed the tank and pump and measured the remains; 0.5 gallons.

That's a 0.4-0.5 gallon difference, so now I needed to ride. I've gone through 3 full tanks and when the light comes on I've filled up, (3.5 gallons, 3.4 gallons and 3.7 gallons). Each time I was within 10 miles of a gas station, so I didn't have to worry about running out of gas, by the way I got 45-46 mpg city/hwy.

So now I just watch the odometer and can predict when the light will come on. Of course I could do this without moving the sensor but now I get a few more miles between fill ups. The down side to all this would be on a long trip, you could be 20-30 miles or more from the nearest gas station when the light comes on so if you try this, you are on your own.



Tank with pump



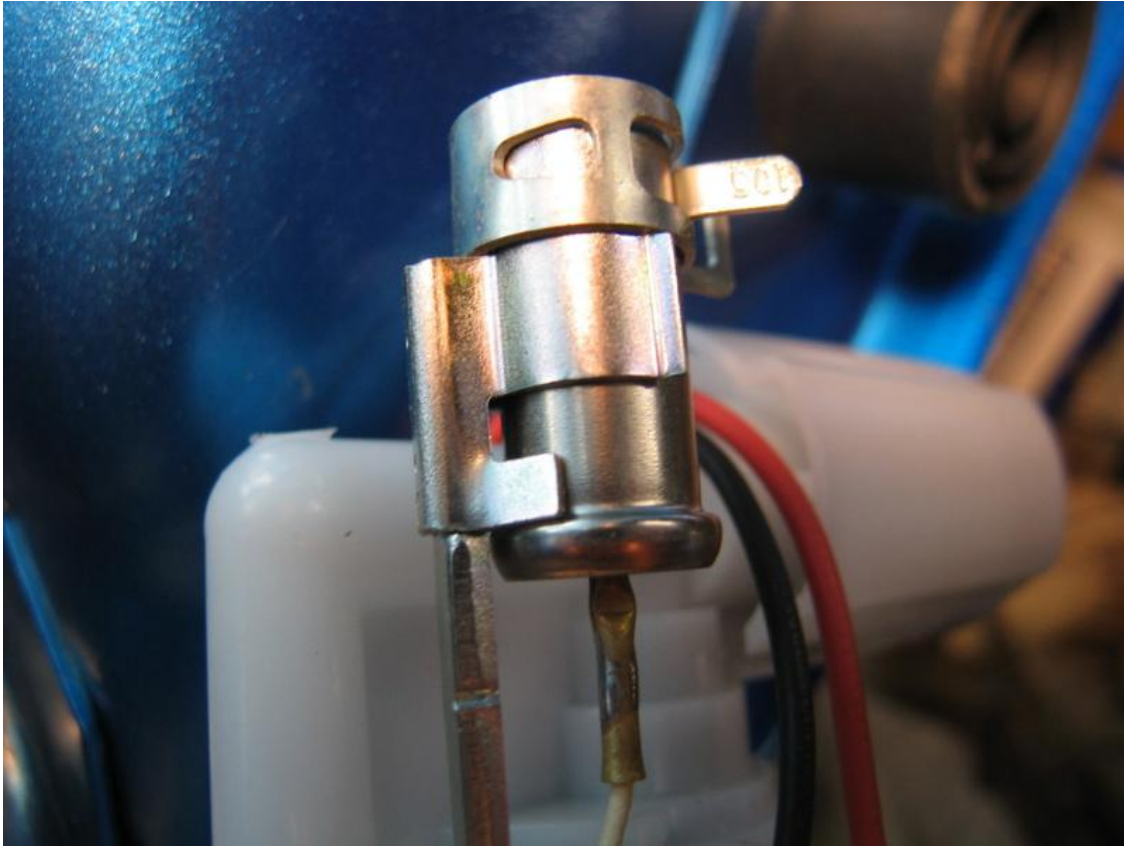
Fuel pump removed, notice position of sensor



Sensor remover (I have already bent the tabs in this shot)



Tabs bent back on support



New position of sensor