



The laptop is now sporting a new LCD screen and is ready for more road trips....you can be sure I will be careful not to drop it again!

I took 3 hours of video footage in Sturgis this year using the Head-Cam product that was reviewed in an earlier column.

Some of this video footage (Main Street, Sturgis) can be viewed from the online version of the HogWired column at:

www.chaeron.com/hogwired

Keeping your scooter secure can be a difficult and expensive proposition. There are a number of quality bike alarm systems on the market. Installation used to be a fairly involved task, but with new factory-compatible wiring harnesses that come with some systems (eg. Immobiliser alarm), it is now easier than ever to install an alarm in your scooter without cutting and soldering of wires.

Bike alarms are not without their problems. Based on the feedback I have received, the pagers rarely live up to the claims made by manufacturers regarding distance. If you are inside a building, the pager's effective range can be substantially reduced or even rendered inoperative. Bystanders have been conditioned to ignore alarms due to constant exposure to false car alarms going off. Silent pagers can help...if they are in range and you can get to your scooter in time. Alarms that have ignition/starter lockouts could potentially malfunction and render your bike unrideable! Though no system will stop a determined professional, an onboard alarm might deter the average punk that wants to mess with your beloved scooter.

Unfortunately, most insurance companies do not yet offer a discount on premiums if you install a bike alarm and the cost of a good alarm system can easily equal a years worth of insurance. A stout lock, common sense and good theft insurance coverage may be sufficient, but a bike alarm system won't hurt, may help, and can do wonders for your peace of mind.

- [Immobiliser Alarms:](http://www.immobiliser.com) www.immobiliser.com
- [ThunderPage Alarms:](http://www.aritronix.com) www.aritronix.com
- **Discreet Installations:** If you live within an hour of Toronto, Martin Lavallee can install a continuity cord alarm (see **HogWired Tip**) for you. You can reach Marty at: (905) 476-5393



Garage Security: I was upgrading my home alarm system not that long ago, and my installer, Martin, came up with a brilliantly simple idea for protecting the scoots at home. I can't always have the motion detector (keep in mind you need a special cold-weather one if your garage is unheated and you live in snow country) turned on in the garage, since we have a number of large dogs that would easily set the alarm off. So how to protect the scoots when the dogs are in the garage as well?

Marty wired a standard house electrical socket into the system as a continuity alarm along with a specially constructed extension cord that has male plugs at both ends. You plug one end in the top receptacle, thread the cord through the bike frames and plug the other end into the lower receptacle, thus completing the connection. If the cord is unplugged or cut, the house alarm system goes off! He also wired up a short cord so that the alarm can remain on when the bikes are not being secured and the longer cord can be stored out of the way.



Long and Short Alarm Cords

When the dogs are not running around in the garage, I can turn on both the motion sensor and the continuity cord for even more security (coupled with a Cobra Lock chaining the bikes together). Thanks to Marty for a simple, elegant, inexpensive and brilliant idea!

In coming HogWired columns: GPS units and mapping software, Weather Radios, CD/DVD players and Bike to Bike communicators along with more HogWired Tips and reader stories.

.....Andrzej