

Those who have been following my reviews over the years know that Custom Dynamics (CD) gets a lot of attention – and for very good reason - great products, fantastic guarantee and the best customer service. This review is not about a new product; or even lights, per se; but, about the latest revision to a product that has evolved over the years.

The review is about the CD SMART Signal Stabilizer™. The Signal Stabilizer is an electronic load equalizer, used to allow the use of LED turn signals without the 'fast flash' syndrome that otherwise occurs.



Most bikes, including almost every pre-'14 model of Harley, depends on the load of burning an incandescent filament in a standard light bulb to allow the bike to 'know' the light bulb is functioning. Typically, when a turn signal filament burns out, the light will 'fast flash' to let the rider know it's burned out. LEDs have such a low draw on the electrical system, the bike 'thinks' the 'bulb' is burned out when the LED is performing just fine (which is, actually, performing much better than the incandescent that was replaced). To prevent the 'fast flash', some vendors provide a true load equalizer – which literally adds an electrical load to the system. This load typically takes the form of resistance, which creates a lot of heat. Most true load equalizers tell you not to run the 4-way flasher for any length of time because the equalizer can create an unsafe amount of heat. Knew a rider who ran his 4-ways with an old style equalizer for a funeral procession; he had a fire under his seat when arriving at the service.

CD didn't think the load equalizer was the best way to handle the situation for the HD models. They developed the Signal Stabilizer. The stabilizer uses electronics to pulse an electrical signal to the turn signal module or turn signal/security module (TSM or TSSM) of the bike, at the precise moment required, so the TSM/TSSM senses the correct load for the turn signal, preventing the 'fast flash'. By using electronics, rather than resistance, the stabilizer creates almost no heat and can be run for as long as necessary without worry.

Over the years, CD had to revise the stabilizer to accommodate the changes in bike & radio electronics, primarily to control radio frequency interference (RFI). The original stabilizer was fully plug & play – just plug into the wiring harness and you're good to go. As bike & radio electronics changed, and became more susceptible to RFI, CD adapted the stabilizer to counteract. First by adding a ground wire that attached to the battery; when things changed again, a power wire was also added. The addition of these wires, unfortunately, made the stabilizer somewhat less than pure plug & play – however much so, was still well worth the effort for the results.

When last updating my bike, even the powered and grounded stabilizer was still creating/allowing RFI under certain circumstances. Primarily in the fringe areas of a radio station signal or when having to have the CB squelch set very low. In these circumstances, activating the turn signal would create a rather annoying static buzz. Since the benefit of the stabilizer outweighed the static annoyance, you go with it.

For 2015, in their continued commitment to product development and customer satisfaction, CD has again revised the Signal Stabilizer. The power and ground wires are gone, making it fully plug & play again. A 'Load Switch' was added to accommodate certain models, that may require a stronger pulse, to satisfy the TSM/TSSM that all is well. After swapping out the previous stabilizer with the battery wires for this latest fully plug & play version – no more interference, even with the CB squelch set just one bar from fully open. The fringe radio stations also no longer had any interference. It will be great to be able to ride when using the CB and not have everyone for ½ mile know the turn signal is on – yeah, with old ears having to have the volume up – that meant the static volume was also up – ouch!

Features of the 2015 SMART Signal Stabilizer™: - Made in the USA (always like to review made in the USA products!); - 5 Year Warranty; - 100% Plug and Play; - 100% Waterproof; - Alarm Compatible; - No Load, Low Heat, Recycles 90% of Power; - Adjustable for Normal and Max Settings; - No RFI Noise; - Spread Spectrum Technology.

Another great product from Custom Dynamics. Be sure to check their website (www.customdynamics.com) for specific fitment details.

If you decide to order the Signal Stabilizer, or any other CD product you read a bogiesreview about, be sure to let them know 'bogie sent me'.

Respectfully, bogie

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