

Amal Flooding

From time to time all motorcycle carburetors misbehave, and this includes Amal carbs. The causes are usually simple and straightforward, and so are the repairs. One common issue is fuel spewing out the float bowl overflow hole. In my experience the causes are (in approximate order of occurrence)...

1. Trash under the float valve seat

Working with the float bowl and float valve over a light colored paper towel, one can usually spray carb cleaner, WD-40, or other similar aerosol sprays, and dislodge the trash. The obstruction will then wash out and land on the paper towel where it can be easily seen. Without the towel, one will never see, and therefore positively confirm, the presence of trash. The trash will be a tiny spec, usually no larger than .010 inch in diameter.

2. Float level(s) set too high

It is important to correctly set the float levels on all carburetors, but it is especially important if your bike has dual or triple carbs. In order for multi-carb bikes to run right, the first thing to do is to set the float levels all the same. On a 600 or 900 series Concentric this is done by moving the brass float seat up or down within the cast bowl until the correct level is achieved.

3. Need for new float needle(s)

If you suspect that the cause of your flooding is a worn-out float needle, then I heartily endorse the installation of an Amal "viton-tipped" replacement float needle. This same needle can be used in both Concentric and Monobloc carbs.

4. Float obstruction

Often times the tickle button spring will break and this allows the roll pin inside the button to drop down and rest on top of the float. Sometimes after installing the extended tickle button, the new roll pin will not fit all the way up into the old recess and ends up resting on top of the float. If your spring is broken install the Amal extended button kit. If the flared end of your roll pin will not properly recess into the body, then a smart smack from a small hammer and drift will usually cure this.

5. Poorly cut non-Amal float bowl gasket

Recently the market has been flooded with "3rd party" Concentric float bowl gaskets that can be slightly oversize. Some off-brand gaskets end up touching the float and keeping the float from moving freely to shut off the fuel flow. All original Amal float bowl gaskets are red in color. If yours is another color, then you may wish to investigate and look for rubbing with a magnifying glass.

6. Leaking float that is sinking, instead of floating

Every so often a float will develop a very tiny leak. Obviously, the presence of any fuel inside the float will keep the float from "floating" high enough to operate the float needle. If you see any fuel inside the transparent Concentric float, or hear fuel inside a Monobloc float, buy a new one.

7. Poor float molding

On "New Amals" only: some of the early floats made about 2001 were poorly molded. The plastic tangs that support the float needle were not parallel with the float's top surface, and in fact turned down about 30 degrees. This makes it impossible to set the float level. The only fix is replacement of the float.

Hope this helps!
Richard Whatley