

Create Your Own Seat for the Catalyst Tail

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So I had held off from buying a catalyst tail for a long time, mainly due to the fact that you have to sit on a mouse-pad typically. While there are some okay-feeling pads available, I decided that what I really wanted was a seat like most any stock bike would have, covered and contoured foam. Here's how I created just that.

Materials:

1. 2005 Ninja 636 Seat
2. Heat-formable plastic sheeting (PETE, PS, even acrylic if you're patient. You can get the best stuff at auto upholstery shops)
3. Heat Gun
4. Staple Gun + 1/4" staples
5. Electric carving knife
6. Velcro

Start by taking the tail off the bike and elevating it so that you can work your plastic to its shape. It helps to cut the plastic to your seat shape (at least roughly) first. Lay the sheet on the bike and work it over with the heat gun until it begins to lay in contour with the saddle.



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This is the result after a good deal of heating and working the plastic



Next, you will want to disassemble your 636 seat, which involved removing the staples from the underside of the seat frame and uncovering the foam padding. You'll notice that the contour of the 636 saddle kicks up in the back while the catalyst tail is pretty much flat. This is why you can't just use the 636 seat as it is.

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Some guys on the boards have used other bike seats on the catalyst tail, but that involves hacking the crap out of the fiberglass significantly weakening it, and using a tail that may not match up against the tank on the front edge.

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Next, you'll use the carving knife to reshape the foam to be flat on the underside, for the most part. Originally I was trying to build a hot-wire foam cutter, but decided to try the knife. It worked perfectly.

Now lay the foam onto your seat platform and trace the contour onto it, then trim the plastic to fit the foam (when it's curved!).



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Once the seat base has been trimmed to fit, you have to trim the front of the foam padding with scissors to match the tank interface on the 650. When the foam is shaped, lay it on the base and stretch the original seat cover back onto

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your new seat assembly and staple away. This is pretty tedious, but use lots of staples and be patient. Work the cover around the edge as you go trying to avoid wrinkles.



Now you've got a real seat!

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I am using Velcro to attach the seat to the tail, since it covers up the forward attachment bolts. You could have installed studs inside through the seat that would allow you to bolt it through the underside of the tail if you really wanted, but that seemed like overkill.

There you have it! A real seat on the 'glass.

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