

## VStar Luggage Rack or Trunk Mount

By Michael Tromp 5/5/09

I'll start from the beginning. I used my Yamaha side arms for the sissy bar and traced them onto .125" plywood. This would give me the solid mount I was looking for. I wasn't planning on keeping them, so this was the next best thing.

I then started with that template and traced it onto some poster board. With some help and some measuring tape, I figured out where I wanted the bottom of the trunk relative to the floor and low enough to still clear my saddlebags to open fully. I also had to measure where the trunk would sit and be comfortable for my passenger. I just used a pencil and came up with what looked pleasing to my eye.



This gave me an overall length of 27.5" from the tip of the side arm to the end of the luggage rack. From the bottom of the side arms to the top of the luggage rack is 9.5". You may want yours higher based on personal preference for



where your passenger may want the backrest pads of the trunk. I encourage you to make a template in Masonite or some similar material to put on your bike and will support your trunk while you do the "fitting". This way you can be sure of your passenger comfort preferences before cutting your final material.

With the template side arms mounted and tested, I could take a measurement of the width of the plate. I measured an overall outside of 10.5", making the plate itself 10" square.

Now you can see in the picture that I used bugle head machine screws flush mounted to attach to small "L" pieces underneath. If you did not make the slots or holes in the side, you could easily use a longer solid piece of angle material.

I used 0.25" thick aluminum for the stock only because that is what I could get my hands on. I put the slots in the sides and on the plate to help lighten it a little and to give me places to attach bungees and straps as the need occurs. It's purely a cosmetic preference. With the plate separate, I can attach it securely to the bottom of the trunk, and then use the bolts to attach it to the side arms. Since my material was thick enough, I drilled and tapped all the holes. You could just as easily drill and use nuts and washers to secure it.



You could also use a thinner material. I can't recommend what would be best since I'm not an engineer. You could also make this out of one solid piece of material and then make the bends at the plate. You would have to find the proper material for strength and still pliable enough to make the bend. This could get tricky to keep the eyebrow holes level, thus leaving the plate level as well. I would leave this to a professional for best results.



This is an overall picture of my piece. You can see the bolts on the sides to attach to the "L" pieces. Here are several additional pictures of the rack mounted onto my bike. Good luck with your project!



Some added thoughts:

- You might want to leave the upper arms solid, rather than with the holes I made for looks – this would allow you to replace the holes with slots for the bolts attaching the plate to the arms – thus giving you adjustability to accommodate different back-seat riding preferences.
- The finished backrest brackets and plate can be finished in a number of ways: polished, chromed, powder coated -- whatever you prefer.