

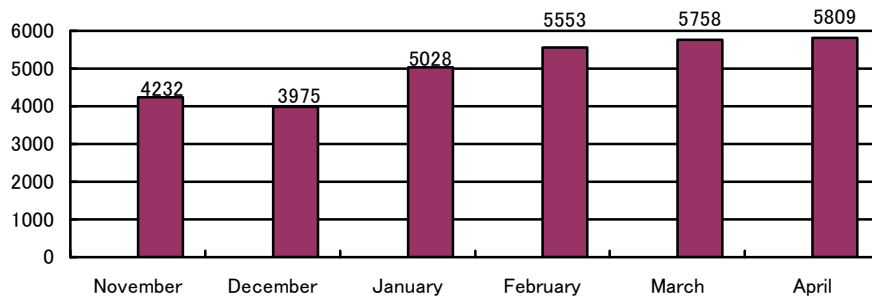
Japan's Motorcycle Electronic Toll Collection System ~ Use Grows During First Six Months Since Introduction ~

The Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system for motorcycles in Japan was launched in November 2006. Over the first six months since introduction (through the end of this April), more than 30,000 motorcycles have signed up to use the system.

The ETC system, designed to streamline the payment of charges on express highways and other routes where tolls are collected, has been in full-fledged operation for regular automobiles since April 2001. As of the end of this April, approximately 17.3 million four-wheel vehicles were equipped for this technology.

For motorcycles, trial operation commenced from April 2005 with test motorcycles equipped with monitor-use ETC onboard kits. A year and a half later, from October 2006, the ETC onboard kits went on sale to the general public, with the actual service getting off the ground from the following month on November 1.

Monthly Trends in ETC System Equipped Motorcycles (2006-07)



Source: Motorcycle Information No.230

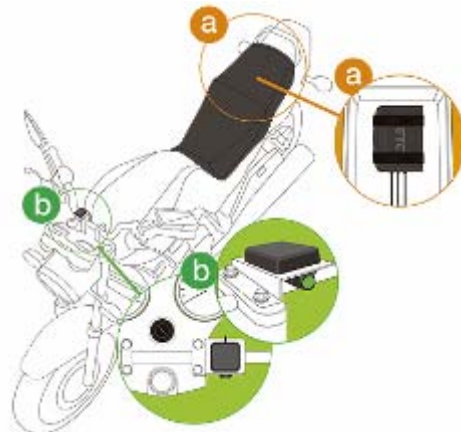
Motorcycle-Use ETC System Mechanism

To use the motorcycle ETC system, vehicles are equipped with an ETC onboard unit input with the model type, vehicle number and other identifying information. To activate the system, an "ETC card" issued by the credit card company of the motorcycle owner is inserted into this unit.

These onboard units are engineered for wireless communications with the tollbooths on express highways and other toll roads, making it possible to drive through these toll collection points without actually stopping at the gates. The tolls, meanwhile, are charged to credit card of the motorcycle owner registered in the ETC system.

The Convenience of Using Motorcycle ETC

To motorcycle riders, the main convenience of the ETC system is that it eliminates the hassle of picking up toll tickets and then handing over those tickets with monetary payments at the tollbooths.



Source: Japan Radio Co., Ltd.

- a: Onboard unit (fastened in place, for example, under the seat)
- b: Antenna (for wireless communications with tollbooths) and indicator (green lamp lit during normal operation, red lamp lights up during abnormal conditions).

ETC Onboard Kit

Soon after offering the ETC service on motorcycles, riders who wasted no time in equipping their machines with the onboard kits were pleased at how the system

eliminated the inconveniences of not having such an automatic system in use. One owner noted: “Especially when riding on rainy days, it was necessary to stop at the tollbooth and take off your wet gloves, when search for the toll ticket and wallet from under your raincoat to hand over. This usually resulted in both the ticket and the money getting soaked.”

The majority of motorcycle owners who have changed over to the ETC system report that the use of this technology has made travel on expressways “much more comfortable.”



ETC-equipped vehicles may pass through the exclusive ETC gates without stopping.

Motorcycle ETC Popularization Measures

Various incentives are being introduced in Japan to help expand the use of motorcycle ETC. For example, kits are discounted by 15,750 yen (about 40 percent of the full sales price), while the balance may be paid off either through installments or by taking out lease contracts.

The benefits continue after the initial purchase as well, with use points currently available that provide 16,000 yen worth of free toll charges¹. In addition to this, ETC users also receive discounts on tolls during the early morning and late-night hours, holidays and other specific time slots and days, as well as mileage service in response to the distances they travel. It is hoped that these and other incentive measures will succeed in winning greater understanding and use of ETC from here on as well.



Onboard unit housed under the seat.

¹ Available through March 31, 2008.

~To Our Readers ~

JAMA is currently revising the style and content of this newsletter. To assist us in this effort, we welcome your comments and suggestions, as well as your responses to the following specific questions:

- What do you think of the frequency of member's publication?
- What do you think of the length of the articles?
- How do you make use of the information provided in this newsletter?
- What is your occupation? etc.



Please respond by e-mail to NFJ-Motorcycle@jama.or.jp, and thank you for taking the time to do so. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.