

5 ALL-NEW 2006 KTM XC's

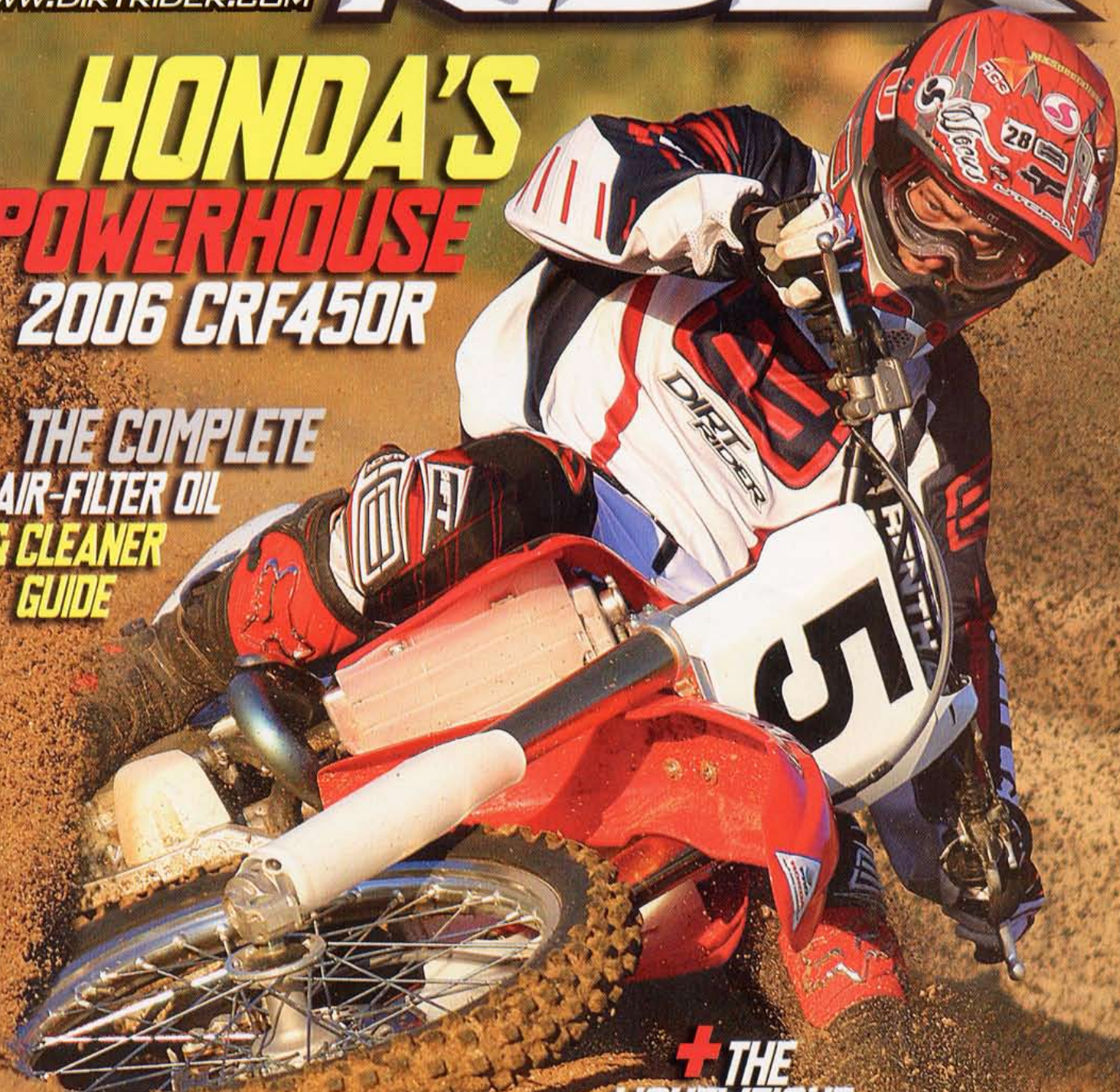


DIRT RIDER

WWW.DIRTRIDER.COM

HONDA'S POWERHOUSE 2006 CRF450R

THE COMPLETE
AIR-FILTER OIL
& CLEANER
GUIDE

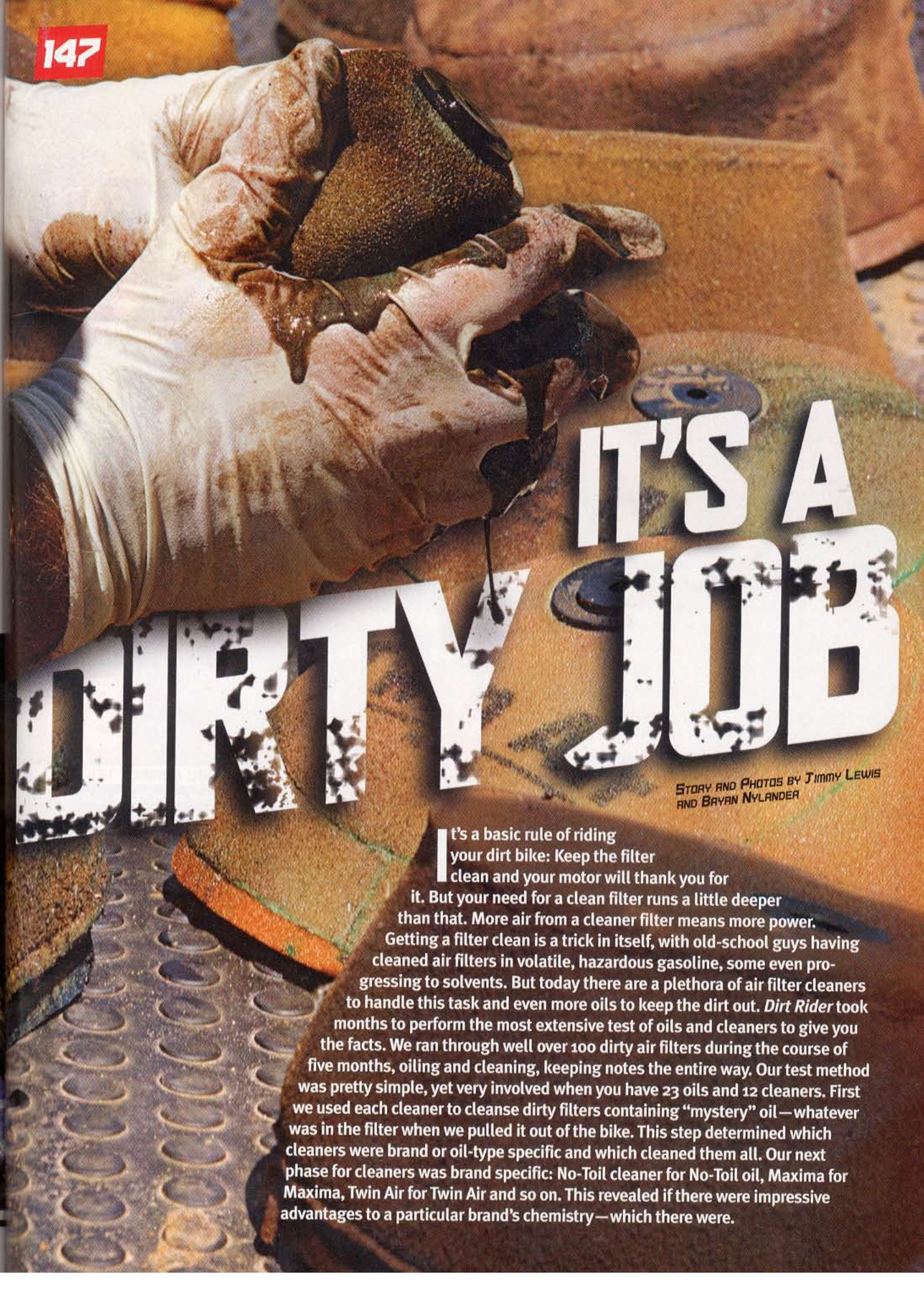


**+ THE
LIGHTWEIGHT
REVOLUTION:
100-POUND DIRT BIKES**

U.S. \$4.99 CANADA \$5.99 DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 4, 2005



A PRIMEDIA Publication



DIRTY JOB

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIMMY LEWIS
AND BRYAN NYLANDER

It's a basic rule of riding your dirt bike: Keep the filter clean and your motor will thank you for it. But your need for a clean filter runs a little deeper than that. More air from a cleaner filter means more power. Getting a filter clean is a trick in itself, with old-school guys having cleaned air filters in volatile, hazardous gasoline, some even progressing to solvents. But today there are a plethora of air filter cleaners to handle this task and even more oils to keep the dirt out. *Dirt Rider* took months to perform the most extensive test of oils and cleaners to give you the facts. We ran through well over 100 dirty air filters during the course of five months, oiling and cleaning, keeping notes the entire way. Our test method was pretty simple, yet very involved when you have 23 oils and 12 cleaners. First we used each cleaner to cleanse dirty filters containing "mystery" oil—whatever was in the filter when we pulled it out of the bike. This step determined which cleaners were brand or oil-type specific and which cleaned them all. Our next phase for cleaners was brand specific: No-Toil cleaner for No-Toil oil, Maxima for Maxima, Twin Air for Twin Air and so on. This revealed if there were impressive advantages to a particular brand's chemistry—which there were.

As for the oils, we tested all of them in a variety of bikes to see if there were any noticeable performance differences. We can definitely say that while riding we discovered no noticeable advantage. Our rating reflects only application and use, as performance was an outright tie. Plain and simple, it comes down to proper air-filter prep. When done according to instructions, all the oils allowed the bikes to perform to their peak levels. Mistakes in overoiling can cause a bike to run poorly, and installing certain filters with excessive oil or too soon after oiling can result in hard starting, some oil brands more so than others. But when instructions were followed, there was never a problem.

One performance difference was in the oils' tack; some with higher tack held on to dirt better than others. They dirtied quicker and would plug sooner if run too long and through excessively dusty conditions. The trade-off is that the filters that plugged made the bike run so poorly it would barely go. Oils that had a light tack tended not to plug but sometimes allowed trace amounts of silt (nothing that would do much engine damage) through the filter. These let the bike run longer with a severely dirty filter. Excessive conditions for sure, but you have to understand your fate before you get your filter that dirty!

A little about the ratings for the products we tested. Overall ratings ranged from zero to 100, 100 being perfect. During our experiment we kept track of the number of cleanings or oilings per container to determine a value based on dollars per cleaning or oiling using the MSRP. We rated cleaners on the mystery-oil cleaning and again in cleaning its own brand. For oils, we rated tack (light to super) and spread with a rating of 10 being perfect. The subcategories were only a part of the overall rating score, so the final calculation meant it was possible for the 1-100 Overall Rating to be higher, lower or equal between two or more products independent of their 1-10 scores. For example, Rock Oil's WWFF scored bonus points for not requiring a dedicated cleaner. We included notes on aspects we found important. Some generalities existed, such as all of the spray oils causing the filters to freeze up when the

OILS

ROCK OIL [WATER WASHABLE FILTER FLUID]



WWW.ROCKOIL.CO.UK

PRICE	\$6.95
QUANTITY	16.9oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	6.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.41
COST PER APPLICATION	\$1.07

RATE

95

OIL TACK | **MED** | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | **7.5** |

NOTES: This is the most interesting and surprising oil in the test because it doesn't require a cleaner. The fluorescent oil pours easily, foams right up and spreads simply, only getting a low mark as it is difficult to see when it thins out. It starts with a low tack, and instructions recommend 24 hours of curing before use. When the filter is dirty, you simply rinse it in warm water then agitate it and it cleans to an almost new, nearly oil-free condition. Will water from a stream crossing, a heavy rain or washing the bike cause dirt to pass? Not in our testing. It resists water passing through the filter as well as any other oil, and when splashed, it only "cleans" itself a little. It takes *agitation* in addition to water to release the oil from the foam. It can be hard on some glues used to hold air filters together.

MOTUL [AIR FILTER OIL]



WWW.MOTUL.COM

PRICE	\$14.50
QUANTITY	33.8oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	8.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.43
COST PER APPLICATION	\$1.71

RATE

88

OIL TACK | **LOW** | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | **8.0** |

NOTES: This easy-to-pour-out-of-its-big-lip-bottle oil flows through the foam nicely and sets up with a light tack.

TORCO [FFO FOAM FILTER OIL]



WWW.TORCOUSA.COM

PRICE	\$8.65
QUANTITY	33.8oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	8.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.26
COST PER APPLICATION	\$1.02

RATE

88

OIL TACK | **LOW** | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | **8.0** |

NOTES: This easy-spreading, thin, red-dyed oil goes in smooth and keeps a light tack the whole time.

spray was applied. This wasn't so bad in summer conditions, but in the winter you'd have a hard time properly applying the oil with an aerosol container. In addition, all of the oils equally prevented dirt from passing and equally repelled normal water encoun-

ters, from stream crossings to bike washing.

Cleaners were used according to instructions, and filters were always rinsed with a final bath of water and left out to dry. Some cleaners recommended a soapy-water rinse; if so, we did that as well in gaining our

No-Toil [AIR FILTER OIL]**RATE**
WWW.NOTOIL.COM

PRICE	\$6.95
QUANTITY	16oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	7.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.43
COST PER APPLICATION	\$0.93

OIL TACK | MED | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | 8.0 |

NOTES: You have to really shake this oil before using, and its red dye will show you where the light and easy-to-spread oil is. It tacks up nicely as the strong alcohol evaporates. A word of caution when using No-Toil: If the filter is going to be in the bike for longer than a month, it can stick to the cage and other rubber or plastic parts. This oil should be used only by riders who regularly service their filter.

85**Rock Oil** [FOAM AIR FILTER OIL SYNTHETIC]**RATE**
WWW.ROCKOIL.CO.UK

PRICE	\$9.95
QUANTITY	33.8oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	8.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.29
COST PER APPLICATION	\$1.17

OIL TACK | MED | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | 7.0 |

NOTES: This clear, hard-to-see liquid flows and spreads nicely, but it is hard to easily identify if all parts of the filter are oiled. It is especially good at chasing water out of a slightly wet filter.

85**SPECTRO** [GOLDEN FOAM FILTER FLUID]**RATE**
WWW.GOLDENSPECTRO.COM

PRICE	\$9.94
QUANTITY	33.8oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	8.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.29
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	\$1.17

OIL TACK | HIGH | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | 7.0 |

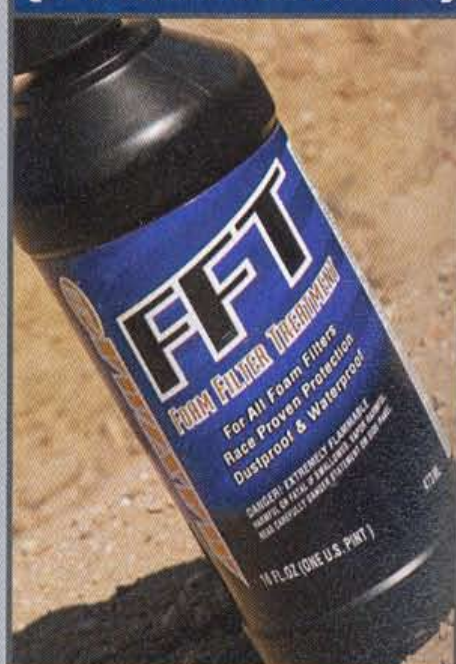
NOTES: This light pour-in oil spreads well but is easy to put too much in the filter. It allows plenty of working time before the high tack comes on.

85**PJ1** [FOAM FILTER TREATMENT SPRAY]**RATE**
WWW.PJBRANDS.COM

PRICE	\$6.90
QUANTITY	20oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	7.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.35
COST PER APPLICATION	\$0.92

OIL TACK | MED | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | 8.0 |

NOTES: Easy-to-see red oil comes out light and just foamy enough to quickly soak into the foam filter where it spreads adequately. It starts out with a light tack and gets to a medium stickiness after a few minutes.

83**MAXIMA**
[FFT FOAM FILTER TREATMENT]
WWW.MAXIMAUSA.COM
RATE**85**

PRICE	\$5.79
QUANTITY	16oz
APPLICATIONS PER CONTAINER	6.5
COST PER OUNCE	\$0.38
COST PER APPLICATION	\$0.93

OIL TACK | HIGH | HOW WELL IT SPREADS | 8.0 |

NOTES: This light-consistency pour-in is super-easy to use and spread and has a medium tack that gets stickier after a few minutes.