



THE SUSPENSION SPECIALIST

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Proven Results 2009/2010: Hayward Suspension Bikes have brought home 12 National Championships
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UNCOMFORTABLE SUSPENSION?

Hi everyone! Home at last. I cannot tell you how good it feels to be back in SA. Since I have arrived here 3 weeks ago it has been blue skies only and the temperature has been perfect. I have sat outside in the evening and enjoyed sunsets in a Tshirt!!! I hope you all realise how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful sunny country.

Sun is just the first great thing. I have been building my suspension workshop during the last weeks out near Hartbeespoort Dam. Outside my workshop I have an MX track, Enduro track, ATV track and a Flat track. If the guys in Europe could see this they would not believe their eyes. To go testing for KTM we had to drive 8 hrs or more only to end up at a track that was either short or boring or both and most of the time it was freezing. Being back and seeing those perfect riding conditions just makes me want to jump on a bike and shred the place!!

Anyway we are here do some techni talk – so lets get down to business. I have to admit I have some concerns about what goes on here as far as suspension goes. My first impression is that guys are not servicing their suspension enough. I have had numerous complaints from people already about harsh uncomfortable suspension. Guys, look at our terrain! It is hard as hell and rocky! In order for suspension to function under these conditions friction must be reduced to a minimum.

Harsh suspension is 80% caused by friction and unserviced suspension. Especially suspension that is serviced without changing BUSHES and seals! It does not matter how often you change oil,

if you use aftermarket seals, cheap oil and do not change bushes then you will always have harsh suspension.

I also noticed that many guys neglect their spring set up. Please come to me with your bike and I will check it with your for free and give you advice on spring choice and adjustment.

The third issue I hear people complain about is that they want their suspension softer for more comfort. Be careful with this. Softer can work against you because when softer, the suspension works lower in the stroke and feels much harder than it should due to the progression. Thus often having the opposite effect to what is needed. So harshness can not only result from a friction or high speed damping problem but also from too soft suspension that rides deep and therefore feels hard.

In SA we have hard terrain and reducing friction and sometimes a little high speed damping can help much more than making it too soft.

I am here now and open for advice to you all. I realise, that there is a need for a good suspension tuner and I am excited about finding real solutions to all your suspension problems. In fact I cannot wait for the challenges that lie ahead.

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