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April 2016

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## Weego=Get Going Again

By Surj Gish

My daily rider is a dirty BMW R1200R, and the goddamn thing, while an excellent all- (not tall-) rounder, eats batteries like... well, like I eat pizza. Positively voracious.

Not only do I have to keep it on a trick-charging battery shepherd, if I turn kill the motor without immediately turning the key to off and saying a quick prayer, odds are that I'll be push-starting the sumbitch when I return, probably on an uphill one-way street. I don't know why, mostly because I'm good with the push-starts and I'm too busy to troubleshoot that shit. I'll figure it out some day—or maybe Triumph will bring their new Tiger Sport to the US and some other sucker will end up dealing with it.

In spite of being the perfect use case for these jump start in a tiny box products, I've sort of scoffed at the concept. "Why, in my day, we just pushed the bike down the street, and if it didn't start, we pushed it home. Uphill, in the goddamn snow. Kids these days!"

But Weego packs a lot of power (groan) into their little boxes. I tested their JS-12 Heavy Duty jump starter: a smallish black box, just a smidge bigger than my first cell phone back in the nineties, which was coincidentally just a smidge bigger than the current crop of mega-phones, but thicker. Weego says its capable of jump starting a gas engines up to 6.4L, and diesels up to

3.2L, in case you're one of those suckers with one of them there "clean diesel" V-dubs.

In addition to jump starting, it can charge USB devices and laptops, and even includes an LED flashlight with strobe and SOS features. It comes with a USB charging



cable with three tails: new iPhone (AKA Lightning), micro USB, and old school iPod; a passel of laptop charging tips (sorry, *everyone* in SF—no MagSafe) and charging cable; wall and car chargers, a carrying case and oh yeah, jumper cables, the cutest little ones you've ever seen.

Remember when you used to buy stuff, and instead of just a sinking "I need to buy more stuff for this..." feeling, the box would contain a bunch of accessories and miscellaneous other bits and bobs? Opening the Weego box is like that. We

like that better than the current "you're lucky we even included a charging cable, sucka" trend. Much better.

All the cables in the world don't mean a thing if you can't swing a leg over a running bike, though. Can you jump start a bike with this li'l thing? To find out, we left a couple bikes turned on in the CityBike Clean Room Testing Facility, and waited for the batteries to die.

Actually, we left the CBR300R we're testing turned on and just looked at my R1200R funny a couple times. The CBR kept its headlight burning for some time, while my R1200R gave a deep retirement home sigh and died a quick, painless death. We also left the Zero SR turned

on, but that wasn't part of this experiment, technically speaking, and it turns out you can't jump start an electric bike anyway, in case you're wondering.

Anyway, the Weego works. It provided enough power to jostle the big Beemer's jugs back to life several times, with plenty left over to start the li'l CBR a few times. There was even enough juice left to power the onboard flashlight for the (felt like) 30 minutes I spent searching the floor under the various bikes for the CBR's seat bolts, which I dropped while jump starting

the cute little thing. I gave up before the flashlight did. While it lacks the defense characteristics of a proper Mag Light, the *light* part of the flashlight works just fine.

Complaints? Like regrets, I have a few. Actually, quite a few, but we'll limit the scope of that discussion to keep our print bill from getting out of control. The jumper cables are sorta chunky and tricky to clamp on to the often semi-hidden terminals on bike batteries. They're also about a foot long, so if you're jump starting something like a Connie, where the battery placement is about as convenient as a 7-11 at 11:30 PM (imagine it's the Seventies, when 7-11s were open from 7 AM to 11 PM, instead of 24 hours) and you don't have a place to set the Weego, you'll have to hold the Weego in one hand and thumb the starter with the other, which is probably going to result in the clamps popping off the battery a few times before you pull off that dance successfully. But only if it's raining—if it's dry out, you'll probably be fine, because that kind of exasperating bullshit only happens when it's raining and you're not under some kind of roof, right?

All in all, pretty sweet. The JS-12 weighs just under a pound, and Weego says the 12,000 mAh battery only loses 2-5% of its charge per month when stored. At \$129, it's not exactly cheap insurance, but it's small enough (6.25" x 3" x 1") to stow under the seat on many bikes, and won't take up much space in your backpack or luggage if not.

\$129.99. Learn more and get your-go at [MyWeego.com](http://MyWeego.com). 

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