

FOX RACING SHOX RC3 SHOCK

APPLICATION: Most modern MXers (tested here on the Kawasaki KX450F)

PRICE: \$895 (\$100 for the spring, which is available in varying rates)

RATING: 9



// WHAT IT IS: Since Bob Fox initially took pen to paper over 30 years ago to design the first air shock for motocross, Fox Racing Shox has diversified, grown, and transformed into what it is today. With the company being known as the premier suspension company in nearly every sport it has entered, Bob Fox decided it was time to return to the company's roots—enter the advanced RC3 shock with four separate clicker adjusters that can fine-tune high- and low-speed compression, rebound, and bottom out control. Of those adjustments, however, the bottom out control (B.O.C.) is perhaps the most innovative with a separate clicker controlling a circuit that only affects the final quarter of the stroke.

Another notable feature on the RC-3 is the Fast Adjust Spring Technology, which allows for quick changes to the preload via a collar that holds the spring tight and in place by a 4mm bolt. The entire system rotates on an ACME load-bearing thread, eliminating the need for a hammer and punch. Other smaller elements include proprietary coatings on the moving parts of the shock, a cap over the Schrader valve on the reservoir to keep it from heating up and losing nitrogen, and a titanium spring.

// HITS: The amount of adjustability on the RC3 is exceptional. The bottom out control allows for a great amount of flexibility when adjusting the final quarter stroke of the shock—something that no other consumer



setup offers. We found that the B.O.C. makes the biggest difference on jump-riddled tracks where the suspension is using all the travel, as it gives the shock more resistance while not making for a harsh ride. As for the overall ride, the RC3 soaked up harsh landings well, while still maintaining a smooth ride over smaller acceleration and braking bumps, without offering a harsh feel like some shocks might.

// MISSES: For some of our faster testers, the shock could probably stand to be slightly stiffer, as they had to stiffen it up significantly for more jump-riddled tracks. This could be changed, however, by simply having Fox Shox valve the shock differently.

// THE VERDICT: If you're in the market for a shock that will work great, look no further than the RC3 shock. For the money, you can't find a shock that offers as much adjustability and performance as the RC3. And for us, we found that the Fox Racing RC3 worked well on a wide variety of track conditions.

Call 800/FOX-SHOX or visit www.foxracingshox.com