

Alan's Wrench

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I did a series of brake tests over 2000-2005, including six types of brake pads, and my findings are summarized below. Several of the pads I tested are no longer available, so the current choices are limited. Of these, the best are the Ferodo Platinum pads, now stocked by several suppliers of Norton parts. When I originally tested these, they were only available from Michael Morse (Vintage Brake), who had them machined from Honda pad sets, and I found them to be a superior part. Since then, Mike was able to persuade Ferodo (now part of Federal Mogul) to produce them for the Norton-Lockheed brake.

The EBC pads are also very good, and have held up well in 5000+ miles of extended testing. One list member commented that he had fit problems with these, but I had none. The SBS pads are supplied as "Genuine Norton Parts" available from many parts suppliers, and are also good, but are slightly less effective than the other two. None of these pads caused accelerated wear or visible grooving of the rotor. As with all brake relining, a bedding-in period is needed for proper system performance, and this can be helped by sanding and thorough cleaning of the disk surface when new pads are installed. Reducing the size of the master cylinder to 13 mm by sleeving or substitution is an essential upgrade, no matter which pads you use.

Commando Disc Brake Pads – summary 1-15-2006

The following reflects testing performed during 2000-2005 by Alan Goldwater

Opinions are those of the author – your results may vary. Prices are approximate.

Mfg	Part #	Description	Vendor	price
EBC	FA27	Best initial bite and good fade resistance	Vintage Brake, Fair Spares & many others	\$29
Ferodo	2420	For racing only, poor performance when cold	No longer available	N/A
Ferodo	FDB88P	Platinum Series, good bite cold and excellent fade resistance	Old Britts, Brit. Cycle Supply & others	\$37
NHC	06-6005T	Taiwan made. Poor performance hot or cold	Domiracer, EMGO?	\$15
SBS	505HF	Good initial bite and fade resistance. Lasted 10k miles!	Supplied as "Genuine Norton Parts" 06-6005	\$25
UNK?	Sintered ceramic	Good initial bite, no fading but max. braking limited when hot.	Vintage Brake	\$20