

## Dura Blue Eliminator X-33 Ultimate Race Axle



**Product:** – Dura Blue Eliminator X-33 Ultimate Race Axle

**Test Duration:** – Long Term

**Tested By:** – Jim Anderson **Location:** – Minnesota

**Machine:** – 2003 Kawasaki Prairie 650

**Review Date:** – July 2006

Well after some 2600 hard miles riding I have managed to bend my original rear axle on my 2003 Kawasaki Prairie 650. We have decided to put a Dura Blue axle to the test with ATVPT's pro

rider/product tester Jim Anderson (Yamiho) Dura Blue has sent us their Eliminator X-33 Axle "Ultimate Race Axle" and billet hubs to be tested.

Lets see if this axle can meet or exceed the OEM axle on this model.

### First Impressions:

I have put about 2600 hard miles on this sport utility quad and unfortunately, I have managed to bend my rear axle. I suspect I probably bent the axle while taking some pretty considerably sized jumps. I have also put heavier after market tires on this machine, and whenever you apply aftermarket products to your machine, you risk the integrity of the original manufactures' specifications.

What I mean by hard miles is besides putting this quad through the ringer with some heavy duty hauling and towing, I am a fairly aggressive trail rider. I tend to ride fast, take high speed corners and jumps whenever possible and of course while safe conditions allow me to do so. I decided to try this axle from Dura Blue hoping it will handle the type of riding I do better than the OEM axle. I told the Dura Blue sales dept. which model my quad is, and also what style of riding I do, and they recommend this Eliminator X-33 Ultimate Race Axle with Billet Aluminum hubs. They offer several types of axles to accompany many ATV models and riding types. When ordering, make sure you get an axle design that suits your riding style and machine.

I am quite impressed with the fit and finish look as well as the design of this axle. It has been made with a high strength proprietary heat treating process and has been polished and chromed. The X-33 axle uses the same superior material and heat treating as the Eliminator. The unique difference is in the design of the wheel hub mounting area. Standard design ATV axles neck down to about 1" in diameter. A splined wheel hub slides onto the axle shaft and is retained with a hex nut. As most ATVer's know, hubs loosen frequently. The X-33 changes all that. The wheel hub is clamped solid and driven by a pin on a 1-3/8" diameter shaft. This axle is rifled to reduce weight near the rotational axis of the ATV. This axle comes with a very unique option of 2+2 for adding width and stability for certain riding requirements. This is an awesome feature that I am extremely interested in testing results with my riding abilities. In just a matter minutes you can easily customize the length of your axle for instant, big performance improvements.

### Technical Notes:

The total weight of this axle with hubs matches the weight of the OEM with hubs, which is good to match power/weight aspect ratio. However, the Dura Blue billet hubs weigh half as much as OEM, and the remaining weight and strength is in the axle where it should be. The Dura Blue axle does have a larger diameter and added strength in key areas to increase axle torque load requirements.

### Field Test:

I have now had this axle from on my machine for 5 months. In that time, I have put on 700 miles of riding through dirt, gravel, mud, rocks and swamp. I have put this axle through torture, riding fast on rough trails, and taking many jumps. All the while with over sized tires and wheels which are 30-40% heavier then OEM set up and believe I have put this axle through a very fair and yet grueling test. I am happy to report after this much time the axle is still straight and is showing no signs of wear anywhere. I will continue testing this axle for a full year and hopefully over another 1,000 or more miles and report back then.

### Bottom Line:

Dura Blue is clearly a great aftermarket axle company that is an alternative to OEM. If your looking to match or exceed OEM quality and perhaps get some performance gains besides, I recommend you take a look to Dura Blue Axle.





## DuraBlue X-33 Axle Review – KFX-700



### ATV Torture Forums

August 15, 2009

One of the worst things to happen on the trail or in the race is to smack a rock, tree or stump with the rear tire and bend an

axle. This can ruin your day, your weekend or your race depending on the circumstances. Fortunately there is a company who manufactures ATV parts but most notably ATV axles. In fact they manufacture a World Record holding axle.

DuraBlue manufactures an entire collection of replacement parts for ATV's. After browsing the few hundreds of parts listed on their website, I could see they manufacture parts that were designed for the most extreme conditions, or for a better choice of words to be "tortured". When we began our KFX-700 project we knew it was going to be intended for GP, desert and hare scramble racing. This inspired us to create a machine that was able to withstand some of the harshest environments. With the OEM axle being notorious for not being able to withstand the abuse, we knew we couldn't take any chances. We needed the best setup, so without hesitation we contacted DuraBlue for a new axle for our KFX-700.

Among the other aftermarket replacement parts DuraBlue offers, they have 3 axle styles, all of which are touted as better than OEM. They have a Heavy Duty axle which is intended for recreational use and is noted as being twice as strong as the OEM axles. They do not recommend the Heavy Duty style axle for any riding that will incorporate large jumps. The Heavy Duty axle is unfinished and has a 3 month warranty against bending or breaking.

Next is the Eliminator axle which is the most popular replacement axle featuring a proprietary heat treating process that gives the axle exceptional wear and strength characteristics. You can purchase the Eliminator axle in standard or extended lengths. This size gives the rider the flexibility of choosing the axle to best suit their riding style. The Eliminator axle is warranted against shaft bending or breaking for as long as you own the axle. To finish the looks, the Eliminator axle is polished and then chrome plated.

Finally, is the X-33 axle which uses the same patented heat treating process as the Eliminator axle. But, DuraBlue goes a step further by uniquely changing the hub design area. Rather than using a traditional splined wheel hub, forcing the axle to be tapered, loosing it's strength and rigidity, the X-33 axle meets the hub area with the shaft at full 1 3/8 diameter. The billet hubs, which are included, are then attached and clamped solid to the X-33 axle with a 1/2" pin holding it solid and reducing the necessity to have to re-check and tighten loose hubs like on standard axles. Like the Eliminator, the X-33 axle is polished and then chrome plated.

When Terry Wilmeth broke the Guinness World record for being the fastest ATV on the planet at over 160 mph, he used a DuraBlue X-33 axle. Terry was originally declared the Guinness World Record holder for the fastest ATV on the planet with the help of DuraBlue's Eliminator axle in July 2005 in Madris, Oregon at the Freelineer Test Track. The top speed reached was 138 mph, quite an adrenaline rush as you can imagine and that's exactly what Terry himself described. He gained this incredible speed by using a homemade hybrid rocket thruster on his Raptor 660.

*"One of the most critical factors facing anyone in a traditional land speeder is the fact you have to make certain driveline parts spin at speeds they were never designed nor intended to achieve. We knew we had to have rotating components that could hold up to incredible stress, heat and distortion. In the 2005 world speed record attempt with Rocket Raptor (RR) 3.0, we utilized a DuraBlue axle and successfully took RR 3.0 to 138 m.p.h. for a new Guinness and NWOTA world speed record. Well, we weren't about to mess with success for 2007. To that end, we relied again on the good people at DuraBlue. They went way out of their way to provide an axle assembly, hubs, carrier and hardware that had been carefully tested, balanced, trued and retested to make sure they would stand the test of speed. Their expertise and technical support was invaluable. On the day of the world record attempt, we put the coals to RR 5.0 and I pushed the ATV to an awesome 164 m.p.h and then held it for the entire 1/4 mile time trap measurement for a new ATV ultimate land speed record!! My daughter Natalie "Rocket Girl" Wilmeth then achieved a new women's ultimate ATV land speed record of 135 mph. Considering the challenges we experienced in our various runs, it was very gratifying to see that the DuraBlue components were literally bullet-proof. We would never consider using any other rolling components in future efforts.*

*DuraBlue, you guys rock! We are forever grateful for helping us be the fastest ATV on the entire planet again!!! " Terry "Afterburner" Wilmeth "*

With all the choices in mind with a low weight benefit and since we wanted to use this machine in the most extreme conditions we felt we needed the best of the best in axle. Even though we weren't going to be trying to break Terry Wilmeth's record, we needed the best and that was the DuraBlue X-33.

### First Impression & Installation

The X-33 arrived from DuraBlue very quick, and was packaged in the basic point of sale cardboard packaging suitable for display on any dealer showroom or retail area. Opening the box revealed the axle, mounting hardware, two hubs and the universal installation instructions. Everything was packaged extremely well to ensure no damage during shipping. The chrome plating on the X-33 axle was flawless. This part made it very difficult to decide whether I wanted to install it on our KFX or not. The Chrome plated beauty looked more suitable on a wall or affixed to a full dresser Harley Davidson.

The billet hubs were very well made and gave the impression of being very durable. I couldn't note any changes that could be made in this area to improve upon the hubs.

The X-33 is very heavy. But we did notice that after comparing it to the OEM is was just slightly heavier at 4 ounces over the OEM. We decided that we could live with 4 ounces if it meant having the best axle.

We read through the installation instructions and became completely confused since the pictures did not match anything the axle came with. Since the KFX-700 is a shaft ATV, installation was slightly different that a chain driven ATV. So, rather than fumbling around with confusion, we

decided to tackle the project head on and see where it took us. After all, we knew we could contact DuraBlue if we ran up against a wall in confusion.

I was recovering from a severe back injury so I enlisted a friend to help with the installation. I left our shop to gather my camera gear in order to take some pictures and document the installation process. 20 minutes later I returned to find my buddy just finished tightening the hub pin bolts. The installation time took less than 30 minutes tops. That was it! After a final check over to make sure everything was torqued to manufacturers' specs, it was time to bolt the wheels on and go ride. I can't say that this is an easy install for every quad, but for us and the KFX-700 it couldn't have been any more simple.

### Ride Report

The X-33 arrived exactly as expected, straight and true. We had no issues with the X-33 after our speedy installation. For the world's best ATV axle, the X-33 functions exactly as expected. After several jumps with the 500 + pound KFX-700, the X-33 still turns true as if it was just installed.

### Conclusion

The X-33 is said to be the world's best ATV axle. However, DuraBlue also makes 2 other great axles that may suit your needs too. We had a great customer service experience when contacting DuraBlue and we won't hesitate the next time we need a product that is built to be the best.



View other motorcycle & powersports drivetrain & transmission parts by [DuraBlue](#) on our website.