

## WRXUSA

This review is for WRXUSA ([www.wrxusa.com](http://www.wrxusa.com)). Upon considering doing a complete WRX swap into my 2002 Impreza RS, I did a good amount of research on what was involved. I also contacted a few companies via phone or email, but I did most of my research online based off of websites. I found WRXUSA and decided to give them a call. I spoke with a guy there, who asked that I send my information and he will see what he can do. I did:

August 3, 2012

"Hello!

We just talked and you said to send you an email. So here I am; just lookin for any info you can give me. I want to make sure I have all of this down as much as possible so I don't have any surprises. Thanks so much!"

I got a call back and was told that he had an engine out of a 2003 WRX with around 78,000 miles. I did some research and found mixed results, mostly regarding the website. I decided to go for it, considering the cost was going to be \$3300, shipped via UPS to my door, and should have everything I needed for the swap. I was expecting a simple, stock setup, that I could build on my own, nice and slowly.

I contacted Sebastian multiple times in between the initial time that I "ordered the swap" and the time he actually sent it. I paid a \$500 down-payment (again, on the 03 Swap) and paid the rest of it the very same week. I was told it would be a week after I actually paid in full. Sometime in here, I got a call saying it (again) had not shipped out the day I was told, and that as his workers were pulling the engine, they 'found it has a VF39 and STi Pinks" and that I would have to find an EGT sensor as well. I was kind of disappointed that it had not shipped, but was excited of the mods I was getting anyway. But I further worried of the abuse it previously took. I was also told the ECU had "ECUTEK software on it, and it goes pretty good". It was closer to three. It actually shipped out in the beginning of September (I was pretty anxious as it was, and at this point had already torn my car apart, and had to borrow Kenton's to get around). When I received the pallet, I was very disappointed to find that instead of having everything I need, I only had the engine, engine and bulkhead harness, and cross member. Also, the headers to turbo was here. Nothing else. But I was happy enough to have something.

Assembly took place while waiting for more parts. I wondered why one wouldn't put everything on the pallet and ship it all at once to save on shipping. Upon installing some of the wiring, we noticed many plugs that did not fit or look right. When I finally got hold of him, I was told that it was out of a 2005 WRX with 88,000 miles on it. Again, I had that worried/angry feeling, but was looking at it

optimistically that I was getting a newer engine out of it. But none of the interior, ABS, etc was plugging in, and I was pretty upset about this (the main reason I wanted 02/03). ]

He was very kind to send another harness out of an '04, so I could mate it up just as easily with all the other '05 stuff, but would still have the older-style harness. I am very grateful for this. (Side note: Subaru did change some pretty serious wiring for this- check out our gallery for more info!)

I at one point (while waiting for everything else to come in, and the same time I was told about the ECUTEK software, inquired about a bunch of other items. I assumed that a sway bar for the front would be included, since it is totally different from the RS, and Sebastian confirmed that he would send it with everything else (messages to be attached later). I also contacted him later on during the swap while trying to plug in the rear harness (for fuel, tail lights, etc) and found that the wiring harnesses for the fuel system was totally different. He assured me that "the rear harness you have will work with the fuel pump you receive). I received an 04/05 harness, but an '02 WRX pump assembly (Which I confirmed is the same as the '02 RS, but is missing wiring for the Fuel Pump Controller).

Many additional things went downhill during this swap. And it was very difficult to get a hold of him. I also found it strange that he would say he had to have his crew work on pulling stuff, but he would also say that he is the only one in the company and he is moving to a new facility. I notice on his website he mentions something about <http://www.wrx-tx.com> which I can't find much for, but there is plenty for <http://www.wrxusa.com>.

After receiving everything he insists he will send, I sent him this final email (the time between purchase and receiving the last item was 3 months or so).

November 29, 2012

Sebastien,

"I have recieved everything you have actually shipped but I request a couple things I feel you should honor:

The fans are different between the RS and WRX (two speed vs one speed on the RS), and considering this is a WRX Swap, and is necessary to run, I think you should include them. I also request that you honor your previous message about shipping the sway bar, as it too, is different. I asked you one night at the end of august if that would be included too, and you said yes, you would, and that you had another box of stuff to send and that would be included. I can produce that if you would like.

Also, I had texted you saying the plugs for the rear harness (fuel plugs) were different than an '02. And you said the "sending units will match the wiring" You

sent me units I already had. So I still have none of my fuel stuff plugged in.

You should also know that upon removing the radiator from the box a while back I noticed the top piece where the hose goes has been cut or something. You can see where it has been messed with and it will not hold a hose on it. I have tried and tried again, and have even tried several different hoses and clamps. I can send you pictures of it later if you want.

I am just having difficulty being happy with the swap, when this should have been a fun project. It seems like every time I got something, there were surprises with it. For example, intercooler hoses. It would have been nice to at least know before hand that they were not the ones pulled off the car so i could have planned for it rather than fight for over an hour, then have to spend more money/ Just a heads up would have been nice. But the fact that I agreed to purchase a 2003 WRX engine, with 78,000 miles, that you said was running perfectly, and a 2005 WRX engine shows up, with wiring, and I had no understanding from you, is a bit upsetting. I am very grateful for the harness that you sent to compensate, but I want you to know that I would not have purchased the engine had you told me it was an '05. There are still so many wiring issues I have to deal with. Furthermore, I am glad that I have the VF39 and STi pinks, thank you for that, but still it caused even more work. And then the problems again that I have listed above.

My friend Kevin called a little while back, asking for a blue hood and fender that you "just sold". Five seconds after he got off the phone (you obviously had the phone in your hand still) I tried calling and was ignored.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, that when I got a hold of you, you sounded great to deal with, but the service that I actually got was disappointing. Communication could have made this project so much easier on my part. Your site talks up the customer service, and that customer will be made happy, but I do not feel as you say I should. I thought everything should have been included, and I've had to spend sooo much money on Band-Aids for the unexpected or the missing pieces.

Here's hoping you will make this right.

Thanks for your time,

Dillon Clifford"

\*\*My goal with this review is not to hurt WRXUSA or Sebastian's business or reputation. It is, however, here to voice my concern and experience, and to make aware to any other skeptical buyer. I admit, I did get some newer/modified items out of it, and he did send me the other harness. He was also great to work with if I got hold of him, but only if he kept to his word. I just don't think it should take three

months to ship an entire swap (especially for the price).\*\*

I hope this serves people well, and am open to feedback, suggestions, comments, and any contact from WRXUSA or Sebastian there will be highly welcome.

Thank you,

Dillon D. Clifford  
December 3, 2012  
--Revised April 2, 2014--