



MOTORCYCLES

REBELLIOUS

A PERFECTLY CRAFTED GUIDE ALL ABOUT MOTORCYCLES

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Introductory

We can greatly appreciate the enormous benefit of motorcycle brakes the moment we are faced with our most nerve-racking and supposed-to-be dreadful ride. This is the reason why we have to maintain it well.

We must be certain that it will not keep us hanging whenever we need it. It can turn out to be our last feasible resort – no second chances because what we can be battling in the situation is our loved one's life or our very life.

Every part of the brakes must be carefully examined so as to prevent troublesome incidents in the future. We also have to consider the brakes' good wear characteristics, kind – whether OEM or that of an aftermarket motorcycle parts, its price and of course its function and performance.

According to the expert, the best motorcycle brake is that of an OEM. That is true. However, there are aftermarket motorcycle brakes that are equal to the OEM's quality but of lesser price. When you know you have a better option, why will you settle for less? Why not grab the chance to own the best?

The common motorcycle brake pad design depends upon the disparaging process of dragging the pad against the disc to create the heat or friction in order for the bike to stop. For the braking fluid not to boil or denigrate, heat must be dissipated.

Thus, the pad has to have a lot of 'fill' material for heat dissipation and the friction portion of the pad chemistry must be very severe. This will reduce the amount of actual friction-producing material. Nonetheless, this may lead to short rotor life, noise, brake "dusting" degradation, and reduced effectiveness of the pad itself.

There are other manufacturers that undertake on a totally different principle in creating bike's friction. The brake pad material is adequately heated to embed into the brake disk. This material transfer from brake pad to disk continues as long as the pad is in use. Cushioning effect will become apparent as the embedded material gets thicker with use. This effect

dampens the tendency for the friction material to seize the rotor. This system is called the carbon brake system.

Bear in mind that an excellent motorcycle brake has a good bite, dissipates heat well, and is durable. These qualities must be your basis in choosing your brakes. This is the neutral ground where we decide what brakes to use.

Chapter 1: A Hazardous Sport

Quality motorcycle gear combines comfort, style, fit, durability, weather protection, and armor.

The bottom line with equipment is, you WILL eventually fall, and when you do, you will most likely become very close friends with the pavement. So, you need the "maximum impact and abrasion resistance" as possible.

Armor is extra padding sewn into the jacket or pants to cushion likely spots of impact. Road rash is the not so fun part about riding a motorcycle. It is painful and bloody, but impacts can cause serious and sometimes fatal internal damage.

So, shoulders, elbows, buttocks, and knees are spots that you want to be well protected, as they are the most common of impact points. In any serious crash it isn't hard to get a bruise on all of these body locations. Other common regions of impact are the chest, back, and collar bone. So, as you can see armor placement is crucial.

Material used for armor is another major concern. They are usually composites of plastic and foam. Simple plastic plates would slash through the material and expose you to injury, so they put hard plastic plates inside a thick layer of firm foam.

Some garments also have built in spine protectors. If not, however, and you feel that you are not properly protected, jacket liners with armor pads are available for purchase, which are called "body guard jackets".

For the most part, jackets off the rack consist of small, medium, large, and extra-large. But there is more to a well-fitting jacket than that. Your protection depends on how well your equipment fits. If you luck out and find a jacket that you like and fits well off the rack, you're in business. But if you don't you can order custom made leathers.

There is 5 companies worldwide that can do your custom fit; Langlitz, Bates, Z Custom Leather, Vanson, and Aero stitch. But don't expect to order up your jacket and have it in a week. Each company can only produce about 1600 custom jackets per year, so there is a waiting list as long as the

dictionary. So, make sure you place your order well before you need to ride, or you could be hooped.

Chapter 2: Have a Motorcycle Vacation

Are you an adventurer? Do you have the spirit of a wanderer? If so, then the hottest new trend in vacation travel, a motorcycle vacation, may be just the ticket for you.

Whatever countryside you enjoy, and whatever bike you ride, a motorcycle vacation promises great fun and entertainment.

Imagine a history buff that uses a motorcycle to explore old Civil War battlefields. Wilson's Creek in southwest Missouri, Pea Ridge in Northwest Arkansas, and the site of the battle of West Port near the Plaza in modern day Kansas City are all easily accessible by bike. Or, if exploring the west is more your thing, take a trek out west, starting in Sedalia, the scene of the first recorded cattle drive in history.

Then on your bike trace the other cattle towns of the old west like Wichita, Parsons and Dodge City in Kansas. Then keep heading west to Colorado the mile-high state and visit Estes Park. Go a little south and visit Colorado Springs, park your bike for a day and take a tour of the Air Force Academy and look at the grounds of Cheyenne Mountain, home of Norad.

Still yearning for more western adventure, then you can ride your motorcycle to New Mexico and visit Lincoln County where Billy the Kid and his Regulators raised a ruckus in the 1880's. New Mexico has great camping in the mountains near Cloudcroft, so be sure to take the opportunity to visit and if you feel up to it, sleep under the stars, with your trusty motorcycle near you, like a cowboy's horse.

While in New Mexico the Apache reservation at Riodosa offers a chance to try your luck at slot machines and the wheel of fortune. Then a visit to a great Mexican restaurant and on to the town of Roswell, site of the 1947 UFO crash that some people say made history. When you get to Roswell you can either take your bike to a campground, or park it at a nice reasonably priced motor hotel so that you can spend some time in the UFO Museum and Research Center on Main Street.

While there you can visit with some witnesses to the crash and hear some fascinating stories, and take a side trip out to the ranch outside of town

where debris was found, and some say small alien bodies were recovered. When you've seen all the UFO sites you feel like seeing, you can visit the Robert Goddard Museum next door to the Town's convention center. Goddard is the father of modern rocket science.

He performed many of his experiments in the desert near Roswell and the museum is great fun. When you get done in Roswell, then hop on the bike and go to Albuquerque near Holloman Air Force Base, and then on down to White Sands rocket test ground. New Mexico is full of interesting sites. If you head up north, be sure to hit Santa Fe and appreciate the Native American arts and crafts on display.

Next stop on your bike tour should be Las Vegas, Nevada. The most exciting town on earth is just a hop, skip and bike ride away. Here's a chance to really gamble, or if you don't like to bet, then just stop in at one of the casinos to try a very low priced, delicious buffet. It seems like all the casinos have great buffets and try to outdo each other. You'll enjoy them all. Remember too that this is a town made for entertainment. Try one of the shows on the strip, or a comedy club or magic act.

Now, after visiting Las Vegas, it may be time to go on to the one place that no motorcycle vacation can be complete without visiting, Sturgis. The town of Sturgis, North Dakota is legendary among those who ride motorcycles, and the town people know how to make a biker welcome. Stop in for a root beer and buy a T-shirt as a souvenir of your trip. You'll be glad you did, and you'll remember your motorcycle vacation for years to come. Hop on your bike, be it hog or Honda, and enjoy the ride.

Chapter 3: When To Buy

This is a difficult question. But to boot, we are the ones who will decide when shopping for motorcycle parts.

Thus, we must know how to choose cleverly. We have to do it after evaluating each of the possibilities available.

The rule of thumb though is: if you are looking for a replacement or improvement part, first you consider the availability of the motorcycle parts. Second consideration is your budget. Finally, you can consider other aspects about the purchase.

Some riders are confused and perplexed in deciding whether to buy OEM or aftermarket motorcycle parts. First, we have to know the difference between the two.

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) parts do not necessarily mean Original Manufacturer (OM) parts. Riders might have noticed that many motorcycle manufacturers do not manufacture every part of their motorcycle. They usually have the motorcycle parts designed and manufactured by other independent companies. However, these motorcycle manufacturers install them in their machines or put them in their own packaging to be sold as OEM motorcycle parts.

Aftermarket motorcycle parts on the other hand, are replacement parts that can perform as well as OEM parts. In addition, they can be of equal, higher or lesser quality with OEM parts. They are produced by companies other than the original manufacturer.

The latter are usually resorted to if used as replacement parts or if you want to customize your bike. What are the things that you must consider before purchasing the same? First, make sure that your guarantee period is over. There are states that render your guarantee void if you have an aftermarket motorcycle part installed by an unauthorized mechanic.

Based on my observations, high performance parts and devices such as carbon fiber, titanium, aerospace aluminum parts and gizmos, can be had as aftermarket motorcycle parts. Another valuable observation I got was that

equivalent aftermarket Suzuki motorcycle parts are cheaper than OEM parts. In addition, they can slash down the price to 70% compared to OEM price.

When you are buying aftermarket motorcycle parts, be sure you are getting at least the same quality as that of its OEM counterparts. You can do this by probing up to date reviews about brands and performance. You can find some in the Internet. Moreover, you can consult your trusted mechanics and seasoned riders.

Chapter 4: Wear the Perfect-fit Helmet

If you have a checking account, of course you balance it periodically to account for any differences between what's in your statement and what you wrote down for checks and deposits.

Motorcycle accessories like helmet, are a matter of personal choice. In that case, aesthetic side often succeeds over anything else. At any rate, this has contributed why safety is overlooked.

To shun misconceptions in choosing motorcycle helmets, here are some of the factors that you have to consider:

Shape

This is the most important factor that you have to understand before purchasing a helmet. Riders come in varying head shapes. These shapes include round, oval, egg, reverse egg and earth. Helmets are also particularly made to cater to these varying head shapes. Thus, the choice is given to the purchasers. They must select the most appropriate helmet shape that will greatly support their head.

Visibility

Be sure that your helmet gives you appropriate peripheral vision. This is simply to avoid accidents and other untoward incidents.

Liners

Liners vary depending on the design, material and shape of the helmet. Liners must give comfort and protection to the rider. Thus, it must be compatible with the rider's needs.

Liners that give pressure points must be avoided. Pressure points are usually located against the temples, forehead and cheeks. Helmet liner 'skull cap' is preferable. Moreover, it is better if you personally try the helmet before purchasing it. This is to ensure that it will not be burdensome in the future.

Color

Color is important in the sense that it affects conspicuity. Bright colors are preferable over solid and dull ones. The purpose is to make the rider visible even during nighttime. This is to avoid collisions and the like.

Before you purchase a helmet, make sure that you are knowledgeable of all the factors involved. You do not purchase simply because it is hot or at the moment hype.

Also, before purchasing, wear it first for an extended period to be sure of the fit and feel. Wear ear plugs to be acquainted with the surrounding sounds.

Some of the leading motorcycle helmet manufacturers are Arai, Bell, Icon, AGV, Nolan, Thor, Erex. The helmets they are releasing are mostly tested and approved by Snell and DOT. Choosing is using your mind and your senses...

Chapter 5: The Right Pair of Rider's Protection

Protection and prevention, these are two of the most important reasons why motorcycle apparel is worn by riders.

Motorcycle gloves protect the rider from the shivering coldness of the winter season. It is also worn to avoid Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS) which can lead to more serious conditions. Aside from that, these gloves preclude heat from damaging the skin and lessen the possibility of pricks, injuries and other unsafe elements.

There are different types of gloves. Most of them are worn depending on the weather. Summer gloves uses thin lining and are not water-resistant. They come in vibrant colors with and without fingers.

Rain gloves, obviously, are for rainy seasons. They are usually made of plastic. They can get slippery and bulky. However, they are often cheap and are easy to carry along.

Winter gloves are thick and will really keep your hands warm during cold weather. These gloves are oftentimes lined. They can be stylish and comfy.

In choosing motorcycle gloves, you also have to consider the size, material and other essential features. To preclude gloves from wrapping around the bar, you have to choose the size that fits you well – not too tight or loose, just the right size.

Motorcycle gloves are leather or nylon made. Between the two, leather gives the best protection. Another quality of a good pair of gloves is having extra padding on the knuckles and palms. Carbon shells and tiny metal studs can also be used for added hand protection.

Gloves with fingers are better than fingerless. The latter can give you nasty sunburns when you are exposed under the blazing sun.

Having washable linings can also be a good feature of motorcycle gloves. Aside from that, extensions can also protect you from the harsh and cold puffing air. It can extend up to the sleeve thus, protection is also extensive.

Rain can be rider's uninvited company. However, how can riders manage to enjoy the ride if their hands are soaking wet and numb? To avoid this situation, water-resistant gloves must be worn to keep water away from the hands.

Another feature is the wrist strap. These straps are usually made from a simple button clip system or Velcro. The main function of having the same is to improve comfort by holding the gloves tightly and ensuring that safety padding is in the right place.

If you are a rider, you must be accustomed to the idea of having bigger fingers. A word of caution though, must be applied. Do not purchase a pair of gloves that obstructs your feel of the controls.

With these specifications, your ride will surely be comfortable and numb-free!

Chapter 6: Sleek and Powerful Personality Bikes

There are three essential categories of street motorcycles. They are touring, cruisers and sports bikes.

Nevertheless, modern innovations and designs have incorporated some of the qualities of the other category. However, let us stick with the basics and discuss them one by one.

Touring motorcycles are good for long and enduring rides. Usually, touring bikes have hard-shell trunks on either side of the fender, windshields, full fairings, dashboard and in-dash audio equipment that may include Global Positioning system. Touring bikes also have high rounded back with armrest so that the riders will be comfortable in his ride. Harley-Davidson's Road King and Honda's Gold Wing are examples of this category.

Cruisers and choppers, which belong to the second category, are not that heavy as compared to touring bikes. They are gorgeously captivating and comparable to that of legendary cruisers, and customized choppers. Indeed, they are cool and stylish as professed by many.

Choppers use a frame with a front fork extended and raked beyond the standard stock cruiser. As we can observe choppers are sizzling hot afresh. The continuing paranoia and hype redound to their fame. In fact, there are featured customized cruisers and choppers that are gaining its media exposure and success.

Café racers or sports bikes are also fascinating. They come in colorful facades. They encourage a different sitting posture. The usual thing is that rider's feet must be put in front, with a sport bike, it puts the rider's feet under him. Thus, the rider's tendency is to lean forward over the gas tank with the shoulders and the head straight. This is done to make quick and accurate turns.

Sport bikes are great for nerve-racking riding adventures. Nonetheless, they are not likely to be used for long and steady trails. Honda's Interceptor,

Yamaha's TMAX and Ducati's Supersport are some of the bikes in this category.

Off road motorcycles are primarily designed to be tough and sturdy. Examples of this kind are dirt bikes that are designed to conquer hard, rough and grimy treks. Therefore, as not to bottom out, they come with tall frames and high tailpipes. Sports bikes do not have street gear or license plates. To compensate this, they are given yearly green stickers by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Chapter 7: Motorcycles Saddle Risks

Motorcycle seat height is one of the concerns of riders. Thus, it must be chosen with important considerations.

This is because of the fact that saddles greatly affect the rider's driving and maneuvering skills.

Seat height is measured in inches. Together with the seat height, the manufacturing date and the bike model is also given in the specifications. They can be accessed by visiting the motorcycle store near you or through surfing the Net.

In the Internet, you can search by writing your motorcycle brand, then click on the manufacturer's web site to access their motorcycle models which have clickable links that can direct a probable purchaser to different motorcycle manufacturer's specifications.

Ahead of purchasing, riders see to it that they acquire their desired motorcycle seat height. They want to sit on their saddles with ease and comfort. Though, some riders want to get their feet flat on the ground and others want a different style, the fact remains that they have to maintain full balance and control in order to drive accurately.

Each motorcycle manufacturer has its own list of available motorcycle seat height for each of their models in their specifications. Say Yamaha, it does not only specify the available Yamaha motorcycle parts but its accessories as well. This includes the saddles and its height.

Motorcycle manufacturers are also giving its updated yearly specifications so as to guide purchasers, retailers and riders of what is hot and new!

Motorcycle specs and seats are also announced at Motorcycles blog and Motorcycles Newsletter. The manufacturers included are Harley-Davidson, Buell, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Victory, and the Star line of Yamaha. Seat heights included are precise and reliable. You can rely on these specifications and use them as a guide in your purchase of a fulfilling saddle or motorcycle seat.

With the right seat height, you can be comfortable with your rider's skin. Riding will never be a burden because you can ride comfortably even during long and bumpy rides. State-of-the-art saddles will help you turn smoothly and accurately.

Saddles enable you to stop with grace and ride with power and dominance!

Chapter 8: Make Your Next Motorcycle Road Trip A Success

So you want to go on a motorcycle road trip to Sturgis this year. You've made all of the travel arrangements for the trip.

You have your hotel room reserved. You have the local hot spots during the week all mapped out. Your job knows that you are taking your vacation. Everything is set. Or is it? Did you remember to pack everything?

When planning any motorcycle road trip, it is good to plan what and how you are going to pack your motorcycle. Make a list of supplies you are going to need. Lay out everything and check off the items on your list as you pack them into your motorcycle luggage.

Remember to take an extra change of clothing, just in case. Pack your motorcycle rain suit in last, so that you can get to it easily. The last thing you want is to have to search for your gear in the rain.

Take the time to research different motorcycle repair shops along your route. Keep a list of these shops in your wallet, or even better in your motorcycle tool bag. You did remember to pack that right? Take as many tools that you might need for any minor repairs. A Philips and standard screwdriver, a pair of needle nose pliers, some cable ties, a couple of combination wrenches that fit majority of the sizes on your motorcycle, and a repair manual might even be handy too.

Make sure to pack some easy to eat snacks for the road. Granola bars, trail mix, and candy bars are a good idea. You can also purchase MREs, (Meals Ready to Eat), from a local army surplus store, and use these on the road as a quick meal. Use a large gallon sized sealing bag to store your food to keep the mess to a minimum.

A road map is essential. You can buy folding maps for the trip, no matter your destination. Even better, consider buying a navigation system for your motorcycle. These are great, and can be easily adapted to work with your motorcycle. If you don't want to use a navigation system, consider using a

cell phone with broadband internet access, to use free services like Google maps or MapQuest.

Think about the other essentials of the road. Personal toiletries like travel sized tooth brush, tooth paste, shampoo, soap, and deodorant can all be obtained and stored in a small travel bag, easily stored in your motorcycle luggage. Consider even packing a small roll of toilet paper, for when nature calls, and you are in the middle of nowhere. You are going to some remote locations at times, right?

When packing your motorcycle luggage, try to keep the weight balanced on each side of the motorcycle. You don't want to have a bike that wants to lean to one side or the other.

Taking a long trip with a lopsided motorcycle will wear you out quickly as you try to fight to keep the motorcycle upright. The best way to do this, is to have someone help you pack the luggage, while you balance the motorcycle. After packing, take your motorcycle out for a short test ride, and make adjustments.

Chapter 9: Donning Rider's Insignia

There are different styles and designs of helmets available in motorcycle stores these days.

Colors range from classic solid colors to domineering neon and luminous colors to promote conspicuity. There are also replicas that look like 'super bike champ wear'.

Street motorcycle accessories like helmet are matters of personal taste. In that case, aesthetic side is often chosen over anything else. Anyhow, this has contributed why safety is most of the time overlooked. Whatever the case may be rider's safety must be the topmost priority.

In a study conducted by the NHTSA, DOT National Highway Traffic Safety US Department of Transportation, they have subjected 50 motorcyclists, of varying age and riding experience to a test. They were made to ride along a prescribed test route.

Then, they were asked to periodically change lanes and their head to check traffic in the adjacent lane. Afterwards, they were made to change lane in their normal manner. The riders have driven the route three times, full and partial helmet on, and on the third time, without wearing a helmet. The ability to hear surrounding traffic was also altered systematically.

The study found out that helmets are not hindrance to motorcyclist's ability to hear and observe surrounding traffic. In connection with the hearing tests, no significant difference was found in rider's ability to hear traffic, either between helmet types or between helmet and no helmet.

Hearing ability, on the other hand, was significantly affected by vehicle speed due to increased wind noise. However, for any given speed, helmets did not diminish nor enhance hearing. In connection with the vision tests, it showed that the minimal amount of the lateral vision (field of view) that is sacrificed by wearing a helmet can be made up by turning the head a little further.

Further, the study showed that 19 of the 23 riders who were given the vision tests compensated for helmet use by turning their head a little further

before changing lanes. Overall, any negative effect of helmets on rider vision appears to be very minor, especially in comparison to the protection offered by helmets should a crash occur.

Arai, Bell, Icon, AGV, Nolan, Thor, Erex, are some of the trusted motorcycle helmet manufacturers in the world. The helmets they are releasing are tested and approved by Snell and DOT.

Pick the best helmet for your secured journey. Be guided by your senses...

Chapter 10: Smart Motorists Don't Trade, They Upgrade

Although car trouble and maintenance costs may tempt you to get rid of your vehicle in favor of a new car, repowering your current set of wheels may make much more sense in the long run, according to the Engine Repower Council and the Car Care Council.

"When a car or truck suffers major engine damage, often the first reaction of most consumers is to buy a new or used vehicle," said Rick Miller, ERC chairman. "In some cases that might make sense, but often it's simply not necessary. And it's a very expensive proposition compared to repowering your car or truck's worn-out engine with a rebuilt/remanufactured engine."

A rebuilt engine has been remanufactured to prescribed specifications by highly skilled machinists using state-of-the-art equipment and components. During this process, many new components are installed that meet or exceed original equipment performance standards.

Frequently, rebuilt engines are better than the engines installed in a new vehicle because better parts are used, or design changes are made to correct problems with the original engine.

If you're concerned about how a recycled engine will affect your gas mileage, you should know that not only do rebuilt engines get better gas mileage than a worn-out engine, but they emit fewer pollutants. Engine repowering also saves the tremendous amount of energy used in processing discarded engines and vehicles. It also saves raw materials that would have been used in building a new engine.

The savings from engine repowering are especially evident when comparing against the prices of new vehicles, which have an average sticker price of \$27,958. A rebuilt/remanufactured engine purchased and installed at an average cost of \$2,500 to 3,500 can be a good investment.

A professionally rebuilt engine is typically guaranteed for at least one year or 12,000 miles, with some remanufacturers offering warranties as long as 36 months or 36,000 miles.

Check with your local service providers for information on their rebuilt engines and warranty programs.