

TIPS & TRICKS

By Dr. Gizmo Doodad

Several months ago Dr. Doodad appeared on the pages of this magazine. The response from our readers was overwhelming. So without further ado once again it's time to glean the brilliant advice from Americas leading expert in Faux-Erudition MC Sciences. We welcome the return of our favorite authority on all things AMC (American Motorcycles that is).

FIRST TIME BUYER

Dear Doctor,

I am considering purchasing a new Harley in the near future but with all the models they have available I just cannot make up my mind. I have owned foreign bikes in the past and am now ready to step up to the class of a Harley-Davidson. What model would you recommend for a first time buyer?

Buffalo Bob, Buffalo, N.Y.

Buff,

I remember when the motor company made only five or six different models. Gee wiz! Times sure have changed. Just relax and buy the model that fits the type of riding you plan on doing. If you plan on spending a lot of time on the road you may want to consider the top of the line full bagger with all the goodies, that is, providing money is no object. No matter what model you chose though you'll be OK. Even if you change your mind later on you can sell it and buy another model. Since late model H-D's go for top dollar these days you can't make the wrong choice. Let me know what you decide on.

CARB CONTROVERSY

Hey Doc,

I want to buy an aftermarket carburetor for my 98 Softail. The motor is stock. Most of my friends recommend the S&S and some recommend the Mikuni. Both of these units are competitively priced, so the cost is not a consideration. What do you think is the better carb?

Storm'n Norman, Tampa, Florida

Storm,

Both of these products receive excellent reviews and word of mouth endorsements buy the people that use them. Consider your riding style. The S&S Supper E will give you most of its power in the two to four thousand RPM range. The Mikuni may prove to be a little better at top end speeds. These two carbs are also easy to install, providing you are mechanically inclined. Once they are set up properly you literally don't have to touch them again. Unless you have already done it, consider installing an exhaust system at the same time. Aftermarket pipes have less restriction than OEM exhaust. You should also consider having the engine timed by a shop with a dyno for maximum performance. After spending about five or six hundred dollars on the upgrade, this is a sure way to know that everything is tuned to perfection.

FASHION STATEMENT

Dear Dr. Doodad,

My new boyfriend has a Harley. I really enjoy riding with him. I would like to buy a leather motorcycle jacket. I went to the local dealer's showroom to look at jackets. I could not believe how many different styles were hanging in the boutique and they were very expensive. I could probably buy a car for what they charge for some of these jackets. Are some jackets warmer than others? What jackets are more popular for women? Should I buy one with fringes on the sleeves? What is more practical, a short jacket or a long one? Thank you. I would sure hate to spend a lot of money on something that is not stylish.

Blondie, Scottsdale, Arizona

Blondie,

Buy the black one.

Feel free to e-mail your questions to drgdoodad@yahoo.com

Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.

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Leather Tip

I e-mailed Bessie at Casper leather and asked her for a tip in leather, here's what she sent me back: Good morning, because of what we do for a living, we are always being questioned on the quality of this or that leather...rule of thumb , the more pieces that are used in making the product the less quality it is....in other words chaps that are one piece are stronger and better quality than the ones that are 8 pieces. the vests that are 4 or 5 pieces are better quality than the ones that use a dozen or more pieces....and the shiny leather is usually less quality than the duller softer leather..these are rule of thumb and of course there are always exceptions.....Bessie Casper www.caspersleather.com

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