

I have been looking for someone to write a section on tech tips for a while now. After a few failed attempts by other shops, Tommy at Tommy's Custom Cycle in Appleton has offered to pick up the section.

Tommy's Tech Corner

As I stop to think about the riding I've done this year, it seems to me that much of it was rush to get there, ride and sight see as much as possible at the destination, and then rush home. This leads me to gather my thoughts of the rides and the things about my bike I liked and disliked. The riding was in all types of weather from the cold of spring, to the full on pounding rain, iron butt challenges to 100 plus degree heat in Sturgis.

Some of the things to consider on your bike may be comfort accessories. Handlebar heaters or heated handgrips are very nice to have and can extend your riding to year round. I have traveled for 8 to 10 hours in 19 degree weather and I was happy to have them. The other thing you might consider for long hauls is an Airhawk seat cushion. The Airhawk is the best I have used. It evenly distributes your weight and is adjustable.

Performance items may include a high flow air cleaner, pipes, cams, headwork, single fire performance ignitions, and some fuel system mods to keep the engine properly fueled and running its best.

Some handling items might include performance tires, the very popular Metzeler 880, Continental TK17 and Milestone are exceptional tires for wear. Both have the best wet grip I have tested. New gas shocks always help the ride and will improve the handling and cornering due to the bike being more stable. A bonus to new shocks could be that you could use a shorter shock to lower your bike. Be careful and make sure the shorter shocks will work, you don't want the fender to hit your new tire, or your wiring under the fender.

Chrome goodies. There is an endless supply of stuff to bolt on, and it's really a personal choice. I like to make sure a theme is followed, so it all flows. If you do too much chrome, (example) chrome wheel, chrome swing-arm, chrome sprocket, chrome belt guards, all you get is a sea of chrome- no dimension or depth. I like some color or textured finish mixed in with the chrome.


People quite often will ask me, "Tommy, what pipes should I get or what tires should I run? What cam should I get? How can I make my bike faster?" I will put my 2 cents in but then I will say, look around, see what and ask what others are using.



Did something catch your eye or ear on a bike you saw somewhere? Was it the trick air cleaner? Maybe the rumble of the pipes? Could it be that high compression big bore engine making the bike sound like it was on steroids? Take a photo or ask the owner of the bike what he has that you liked. Most bikers are happy to tell you about all the hard work and goodies they put into their ride. There is still plenty of time to look around, listen and just ride. Think about the things you like on your own bike. Think about the things you don't like and think about the things you would like to change or upgrade. Go out there and find those things, your local shop will be happy to see you! RIDE ON!

NEXT MONTH, FALL / WINTER MAINTENANCE TIPS.

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