



Tires

I usually tag myself with age in my articles and some that might be a good thing, someone with experience. For others, it is the old man doesn't have a clue. I sometime believe the latter more as I get older. Having experience has advantages when dealing with problems but sometimes it makes you realize how much you don't know. Sometimes the customer takes the, who gives a *#@* what you think or how it used to be, attitude. Their problem is right now and don't care how it used to be. You are one or the other but if you care to finish this article you will see how different things are now.

A long way to talk about tires but I am going to only be able to give my opinion in this article. The reason being is, as long as I have been in the motorcycle industry, the motorcycle tire industry has never educated the general public on motorcycle tires. The only education is easy and simple. The tires wore out because they are always run under inflated.

If you got bad mileage out of the last tires you must have ran them underinflated. There are no books with pictures showing worn motorcycle tires. Nothing is available from tire manufacturers and I have been asking for years. Why do I think this would be nice? One reason is if you show up with a worn motorcycle tire, your opinion is it has worn out prematurely.

The only expert advice I can give you is my opinion. No way to know for sure. I am not even a tire expert! In 35 + years I have no training in this field. As far as I know there is no training available because the tire manufactures do not think it is necessary. This is a poor position for us to be in. I say —us! because if you have a tire issue we are only going to have experience to help find the solution.

The internet boards say that brand X tires are having wear problems and you feel yours is one of the tires. I am in between what they call a rock and a hard spot. Generally speaking if there is or was a bad run of tires no body ever tells me! I have called a tire manufacturer before and they warranty the tire without paying for any mounting cost. That is the warranty that says "shut up and go away." It does not happen often either. They don't ask for the tire back or really even care about the details.

I expect some negative feedback from this but it is the truth as I see it. Remember I told you it was going to be my opinion. That is my rant but there is some good news in all this. Motorcycle tires are unbelievably safe tires. I have been told by people in the tire industry that motorcycle tires are hand built by the best people in the tire plant. They have so much care and attention to detail in each one that maybe there are no bad tires.

I have to admit that I have only run across a few that took excessive weight or maybe had a wiggle at certain speeds. If we ever see a trend in something we send all of them back and refuse to install on your motorcycle. It makes me no difference how good a deal we got or if everybody on the planet is running this particular tire. If we don't like the results of a certain tire we do not install them period.

Sometimes a brand tire works great on one bike and lousy on another. How do we know that? The price of motorcycle tires assures one thing. If a customer is not happy I will hear about. That is not a bad thing either because if several people are not happy it gives me feedback in whether we want to install that tire. Not only is your safety my number one concern, your satisfaction with Shawnee Honda is important to our survival. There are inexpensive tires available for most models but they are not our first choice ever. It has nothing to do with price

either. All of our tires have the exact margin \$10.00 profit.

An observation of mine is many motorcycle that are in accidents need tires. It would appear that most motorcycle accidents start in a panic situation. A sudden stop or suddenly swerving to avoid something or most likely a panic stop and a swerve at the same time. This is where brand new tires can save you. Those old tires you are pushing an extra 2000 miles to get your money's worth have all of a sudden put your life in jeopardy. Don't misunderstand me on this. The tires did not cause the problem. They are one of the solutions to the problem. Bad tires don't cause wrecks, bad decisions do, like running them until there is no tread. Running them cupped out or underinflated is a bad decision.

New motorcycles have unbelievable brakes more horsepower than ever and tires of unquestionable quality the suspension is equal to what it was 25 years ago. Read article on suspension if any questions on that last part. It has made all of us better riders and worse at the same time. The old street bike front tires would always outlast the rear usually 2 to 1. If a tire lasted 10,000 on the rear it was a success. Front tires rotted out before wearing out. Not to-day though, front tires wear at least as fast if not faster than rear.

With the old motorcycle tires only the crazy folks dragged their pegs. Today's motorcycles and the tires we use encourage all of us to ride harder. They stop better and handle better and I am so glad. The glory days of motorcycle riding was dangerous. You know the old days when everything was better. The best thing you could do was ride safe keep your motorcycle in tip top shape and make sure the tires and brakes were good. All we have to do on today's motorcycles is ride safe, keep the motorcycle in tip top shape and make sure the tires and brakes are good.

Ride safe.

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