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Maximum Control: Mastering Your Heavyweight Bike



Synopsis

As anyone who's been on one knows, big bikes--Harleys, dressers, tourers, cruisers--handle differently than smaller bikes. They have different centers of gravity; they steer more slowly; they put you in a different riding position; and riding one--especially riding it well--requires different skills. This book is aimed at helping owners of such motorcycles--bikes with big engines, long wheelbases, and a lot of weight--get the best ride out of them. Maximum Control addresses every aspect of riding--steering, positioning, braking, and carrying a passenger or heavy load. With clear information on differences in equipment--brakes, engine, drive system, even tires--this expert, accessible guide provides everything you need to know to handle your bike like a pro. The outcome will be, as promised, Maximum Control--and the ride of your life.

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Customer Reviews

I have not had the chance to practice all of the techniques described, as they require dedicating serious time to parking lot practice. I have, however, put into practice some of them, without the parking lot drills, on the road, riding two-up, and they have worked superbly! The single technique

that I have found absolutely invaluable, is to make judicious use of the back brake. I have started leading with the rear brake, in all braking situations, and it has made my bike remarkably more stable in all braking situations. I have even used the clutch-slipping, while riding the rear brake, techniques, to make tighter-than-usual U-turns -- turns that before I would have my wife dismount, while I jockeyed the bike back and forth, over a period of 5-10 minutes. Now I turn the bike in a U-turn, with the wife on board, in a matter of 5-10 seconds! If I would invest the practice time in the parking lot, I would be able to handle the bike in absolutely amazing ways, but I am too lazy to do that. The book discusses how to slip a wet clutch, while riding the rear brake, executing U-turns in a frighteningly small area -- you can even progress to doing full-steering-lock turns... This is what the police learn, and how they can handle their bikes in such amazing ways. That level of handling skill **REQUIRES** 100+hours of parking lot practice. I just applied some of the techniques, rather poorly, and I was able to make U-turns at really slow speeds, two-up. Even I was amazed at how well I did. I don't ride a heavy-weight bike, but it is 31-years old, and its handling is not that great, but with the techniques I have learned reading this book, I can handle my bike much better than I have ever done before. It has built up my confidence tremendously. Now if I could convince myself to go to the parking lot and practice... To give you some insight, the authors advocate riding the rear brake, while slipping the wet clutch on your bike (will NOT work with dry clutches -- they will burn out in a short time!), will allow you to stabilize your bike's handling so much, with practice, that you will be able to pull off amazing handling feats, beyond what you thought possible. Just by leading with the rear brake in any braking situation, you will stabilize your bike, avoiding the nose dive you get when you grab a handful of front brake! That alone is worth the price of admission. Everything beyond that, is so much sweet frosting! This book is probably one of the best you could have in your collection. Buy it! You won't regret it. Cheers!

I would give the book a 5 star rating for content. The author has a simple, easy to understand writing style, and adequately covers the nuances of manoeuvring a big bike. There are numerous drills for you to practice both in the parking lot and on the road. Regarding the kindle version as of the time of this review, I get the impression that many pictures/diagrams are missing. The image descriptions are there, but no images. That's the reason I've taken off 1 star from the rating.

Multiple authors combine their years of experience and well proven skills in compiling the information in this very useful resource. The primary focus is on practicing low speed skills in a controlled environment. If you put in the time and effort to practice the recommended session

practices you will no doubt become a safer and more proficient rider no matter what sized bike you are riding. Your confidence will increase, again with consistent practice on a daily basis. What is a bit disappointing is that although the many full color photo illustrations are taken in foul weather (rain), there is no mention much less no content on the altered skills that it takes to handle such situations. I've been street riding on a 60 mile round trip commute on a daily basis, (as much as the Northeast region weather conditions will allow) in all types of weather for the past twelve years and find I always have something I can improve upon in my mastering of skills - covering riding habits and skills for changing weather conditions would have made this a complete package and a 100% score.

I found this book to be really helpful and well presented. I don't really have a truly heavyweight bike; mine weighs in at just over 500lb, but everything covered in this book really would be applicable for almost any motorcyclist looking to learn or increase their knowledge and handling skills. The fact that it covers heavyweight bikes should not be something to stop you purchasing this excellent book. I really like the simple down to earth explanations and helpful drawings and photos and the ways things are presented. If you have watched the Ride Like a Pro video, which I highly recommend for any motorcyclist beginner or experienced, you will be familiar with some of the control and maneuvering exercises covered, including friction control, balancing at low speed and the usual dos and don'ts, but this book comes at them with some different things to think about and try, which is helpful if you are struggling to get it right. This book recommends that you practice your skills on a very regular basis. Most motorcyclists (think that they) can handle their machine perfectly well, but unless you master all the skills, including the slow speed stuff like U turns then you are only partly proficient. This book will help you become a safer and more skillful motorcyclist. It obviously will certainly help you if you ride a heavyweight machine, but don't bypass it if you don't. It is well worth the money whatever you ride. I have several similar books on my bookshelves on motorcycle skills training and this is my favorite!

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