

Gloves

By Jim Roberson

Gloves, those leather or fabric coverings you put on your hands before a ride; what good are they? This article was prompted by a number of things. First, the number of riders I see on the road without them; second why do we wear them when it's hot outside and third, an article I saw in an online catalog for riding apparel.

First, take a look the next time you ride at the number of motorcyclists who either do not wear gloves or wear inadequate gloves. Back when all we did was walk around, there was not too great a chance of injuring your hands if you fell because you weren't going real fast. If you were running then maybe gloves might have come in handy if you fell. But think about what would happen if you fell from your motorcycle at even a low speed say 15 – 20 mph without hand protection. People instinctively put out their hands in front of them when they fall. Chances are your hands would take a real beating. And would they feel real good afterward? Probably not. If you were wearing a “stylish” fingerless glove, you might protect your palm; but what about the fingers?

Gloves have a tough job to do and for tough jobs you need tough tools. There are many good brands of gloves on the market today from leather to Kevlar and all types in between. Pricing runs the gamut from inexpensive to whatever the market will bear. Buy the best gloves you can afford that will give you protection from not only the elements, but also in the event of a mishap protect your hands.

In the winter, gloves serve one extra purpose; keeping the hands warm. But what about when it's hot? Obviously you don't need them to keep your hands warm but your hands still need protection from the bugs, wind, rain, rocks, etc. There are newer models on the market that allow air to flow through the glove while maintaining protection. If you don't have a pair of these you might want to consider them.

Lastly, be sure to carry a couple of extra pairs with you. You never know when the weather will change and require a different pair for the new circumstances. The price paid for extra gloves will be forgotten when they have done their job of protection.