

Questions & Answers on Riding

Q: I'm afraid I'm going to drop the bike. What can I do if I drop it?

A: It's normal to feel intimidated about dropping a bike. Just about everyone worries about that when they start out! The reality is, anytime you're striving to master something new, you experience setbacks along with the successes. Try to keep things in perspective and work toward your goal one day at a time. After you take your New Rider Course and start riding, you'll gain confidence in your abilities day by day and fears of dropping the bike will become a distant memory.

Q: My friend says I shouldn't buy a Sportster® because I'll master it too quickly and want to trade up. Is that true?

A: One thing is true: you'll likely receive a lot of advice as you get started in motorcycling. While it's important to seek input from the people around you, only you can decide what bike is for you. Just make sure you're making decisions based on what you want, not on what anyone else wants for you!

Q: The motorcycles seem heavy. Are some motorcycles too heavy for women to handle?

A: It's normal to feel intimidated about the size or weight of a motorcycle. But any woman can ride any motorcycle if she has the skills and confidence level. When you take your New Rider Course, and ride for the first time, you'll realize that the weight of the motorcycle isn't as big an issue as it may seem to you now. The bottom line is this – when you start thinking about purchasing a bike, find a motorcycle that you love and have it adjusted to fit you comfortably. That is all that matters.

Q: Should I ask a friend to give me a riding lesson before I take the New Rider Course?

A: No, that's not a good idea. You could pick up bad habits or find your confidence shaken before you even start the course. The New Rider Course is designed for people who have no prior riding experience and it has a carefully planned instruction sequence. Rider Instructors have undergone intense training. Better to learn the right way from the start.

Q: I'm nervous...what if I fail the New Rider Course?

A: Everyone learns at their own pace. Some people may need more practice and instruction than others to master the skills required to pass the course. It's no different than taking lessons in any other sport. If you don't pass the course, you'll be welcomed back for more instruction.

Q: Do the motorcycles have a reverse gear?

A: That is a good question. Harley-Davidson® motorcycles do not have reverse. To back up, you push with your feet and use your "glute" muscles!

Q: How do you deal with helmet hair?

A: It's a struggle for everyone who has hair! There are actually quite a few cool products that can help you. H-D® MotorClothes® offers easily packable skull caps, bandanas and pony tail wraps to help you tame your hair. But rest assured, everyone you're riding with is in the same boat, so you'll all have helmet hair together!

Q: I don't have anyone to ride with. Do you have recommendations on how to find a riding buddy?

A: The first place you'll find new buddies is in a Rider's Edge® course. Make it known that you're looking for new riding friends. In addition, we can help you here at the dealership. Depending on what you're looking for, we can hook you up with members of H.O.G.® to go for a ride, or even dealership staff. Just let us know what you're looking for, we will help you!

Q: I don't think I can afford to purchase a bike right now. What options are out there?

A: Did you know that Sportsters start out at just \$6,995? When you're ready to talk, choose a model you feel comfortable on and then sit down with a dealership staff member and run some numbers. In addition, used Harley-Davidson® motorcycles provide a great way to get into the sport. Our dealership has a variety of used bikes coming through our inventory regularly. Another option, our dealership offers an Authorized Rental program. You can get more information about it in the dealership.

Q: How do I know which bike fits me right?

A: There are a few things to keep in mind when you're deciding which Harley-Davidson® motorcycle is right for you – your experience, your confidence level and your physical size. Your experience level and confidence level are probably the two most important factors. Harley-Davidson has many choices to fit your needs.