

Motorcycle Consumer News, October 2007

Electrical troubleshooting and repair is the one area of motorcycle repair that stymies DIY types the most. Whether due to failed attempts to diagnose electrical gremlins or conjured up notions about the dangers of dealing with volts and amps, most owners would rather stick needles in their eyes than work on their electrical system. Tracy Martin's book on motorcycle electrical systems attempts to remove the trepidation most owners have by logically explaining the components in the electrical system on a motorcycle.

Motorcycle Electrical Systems, Troubleshooting & Repair provides a sound foundation for any enthusiast to work on their electrical systems. The chapters are designed to build on themselves. First, Tracy explains Ohm's Law with color diagrams and a clear explanation of electricity fundamentals. He then provides chapter coverage of voltage drop testing, testing equipment, batteries, charging and starting systems, ignition systems, fuel injection systems and how to read wiring diagrams. The 159-page book culminates with chapters on troubleshooting and electrical accessories. It is unfortunate that most riders only consider their electrical systems when they fail. Likewise, electrical troubleshooting books are usually purchased when a bike breaks down. Tracy's book, if read by enthusiasts, would go far to both prevent electrical problems and diagnose problems once manifested.

His explanations and illustrations are both clear and concise, and the flow of the book is geared towards building the confidence level of the reader. The overall goal of the book is to be a resource for DIY types to troubleshoot and maintain their own bikes. While Tracy's book is what I'd consider to be a comprehensive book, it's hard to read cover to cover without frequent recharges to one's brain. I've found that nothing wears out the mind so much as technical explanations, and although Motorcycle Electrical Systems Presents complicated topics as clearly as I've seen, it's a lot to digest in anything more than small bits at a time. Still, the best time to read about your electrical system is before you need the skills the book you're stuck on the side of the road with an electrical problem.

My favorite parts of the book were the chapters on fuel injection systems and wiring diagrams. Tracy demystifies fuel injection and explains the inherent components logically and concisely. After reading that chapter, readers are likely to ditch their old carbureted bike and upgrade to the beauty of fuel injections. In the wiring diagram chapter, the author explains how to read what most of us consider best left to engineers-reading electrical schematics. I've found that knowing how to read an electrical diagram instills confidence, at least insofar as simplifying troubleshooting.

Tracy's 25 years of experience in the automotive field resonate through the pages of the book, and give credibility to his explanations and assessments. I'd recommend it for both the library and the workshop of any enthusiast, and can't voice strongly enough that the best time to read it is before you need it.

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