

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF MCN

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Motorcycle Parts Prices

I wanted to comment on Mike Dwyer's letter concerning Japanese OEM parts prices. It is true that the price of parts ranging from starter motors to timing parts on these bikes will make someone who is used to standard automotive parts pricing flinch. But we have to remember that most of these motorcycle models are being sold in the U.S. in quantities of 6,000-12,000 units per year, and these are Porsche-like quantities. Typical automotive models are sold at 100,000-200,000 units per year, and most automotive parts and sub-assemblies are made on a wide range of models.

It is possible to buy Japanese OEM motorcycle parts at about 20% less cost in some other countries. But in the U.S., manufacturers and dealers have to offset expensive real estate, taxes, salaries, insurance costs and other overhead items.

Mike Stone

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Coincidentally

Early in December I was reading Richard Attenborough's book "Coincidences" . . . for a few months I had been considering a Honda Shadow Aero as my next bike . . . my brand-new subscription to MCN began in January 2004 . . . and right there in your great publication was a review of the Aero!

I thought one to the next day and absolutely agree that the ride is most friendly and fun, and it is the first street motorcycle I ever owned that has features which do not show me my elbow!

Thanks again,

Johnnie Kay Ray

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Tampa, Florida

Depression Feedback

Wow, Keith Code really went off over the use of selective serotonin inhibitors—the new “wonder” drugs that have allowed several million American’s to get up off the floor and back to work, school, etc.

Does Mr. Code really believe that two million Americans avoid driving just because of the label on a prescription? Naturally, Mr. Code is correct in stating that a motorcycle should not be operated while the driver is on meds, but it does seem he went a bit far. Flash powder, and, as always, he nailed probably the most important health issue facing humans directly on point.

It is obviously much more dangerous to operate a motorcycle while coincidentally for the rider and others on the road than it is to do so when you are not suffering from depression. Having suffered mild depression for several years, and being determined to stay off the meds, I recently found the most inspiring book that has really changed my thinking for the better: *Seven Day Depression*. While depression is a difficult disease to read about, this book contains the most powerful information and insight into what appears to be the most common malady humans suffer worldwide.

Like Mr. Code, I recommend staying off the bike if you are taking pills. When you study the disease, however, you realize that drugs, sometimes, are the answer. If you are suffering, get yourself into counseling, read about the disease, do whatever it takes to get a handle on it right away. Depression, it turns out, is much like head stress: that flash powder wrote about several months ago—once you have a strike, a second one can happen much more easily in the future. The brain is the same way. Like CT Kelly wrote

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