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Sportbike Performance Handbook (Motorbooks Workshop)



Synopsis

“To appoint yourself project leader on your own bike is exciting,” says Cycle World columnist and performance guru Kevin Cameron, “but then you need a plan that you can actually carry through.” For a decade, Cameron’s bestselling Sportbike Performance Handbook has been helping readers and riders make those plans and put them into motion—building better, faster, more powerful bikes. This new edition does everything the first did, and more, bringing bikers up to date on the dramatic changes that have swept sportbike technology in the past ten years. Cameron goes deep inside the world of performance, offering usable insights into how systems work as well as how modifications and aftermarket trickery translate into more power and better handling on the street or at the track. Component by component, he describes the secrets of speed in minute detail, all with added color photographs and new diagrams. This edition covers changes to fuel management, suspension, tire technology, brake systems and more. It is the essential tool for anyone looking to coax maximum performance from a sportbike.

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Customer Reviews

Sportbike enthusiasts have been waiting for years for this book. Exceedingly well written, with clear and concise diagrams and explanations on every type of performance modification available. From aftermarket pipes to big-bore kits, from nitrous cannisters to titanium fasteners and magnesium wheels, this text answers all the definitive questions on how to upgrade your motorcycle, and more

importantly, which upgrades are actually helpful rather than mere gimmicks. I was impressed with Cameron's depth of knowledge in regards to motorcycle physics and engineering--he is careful to explain how motorcycles work, and the physics behind performance-enhancing modifications, yet he does so in a fashion that any non-engineer or mechanic can understand. I highly recommend this book for all motorcycle owners contemplating any of the host of aftermarket upgrades for their bike, or for the beginning or experienced racer who wants to know how to obtain maximum engine performance. Not to mention that this book is an enjoyable read for any motorcycle enthusiast who wants to know more about the science and development of the motorcycle.

For fans of Kevin Cameron's "TDC" column in Cycle World magazine, this is your book! Kevin possesses a unique ability to take the most complex topics related to motorcycle technology and make them not only understandable but also *enjoyable* to read. Even if you're not a fan of race replica machines, don't let the title, "Sportbike Performance Handbook" keep you from considering it. Kevin covers every major motorcycle system, in most cases without regard for the genre. So whether you ride the latest Yamaha YZF1000-R1 or a Honda GL1500 Gold Wing, if you're interested in maximum performance there's something here for you. Kevin doesn't take the approach, "for this bike, use these components and settings." Instead, he uses thorough explanations to educate the reader about how and why things work. Then the reader can choose performance modifications that match his riding style, pocketbook and maintenance tolerance. Throughout the book he encourages the reader to be realistic about his expectations and to match the mechanical changes with improvements to his riding ability. With the information in this book you'll be able to make your bike exactly the way you want it, and more importantly understand how and why you made it that way. This is the book we all hoped Kevin would write someday...

This a book that nearly all riders can benefit from whether considering racing, street performance, maintenance, or just wondering about how all that machinery underneath us works. Kevin Cameron approaches each aspect of motorcycle performance with an explanation how that system works and how it interacts with you and the rest of the bike. This understanding of your bike's systems makes performance choices clearer and easier. Any mechanical modification or upgrade has its tradeoffs which Cameron make clear for every subject. But even without the need for "superbike" performance, understanding the inner workings of what you ride adds greatly to the experience. In reading this text it is clear that Mr. Cameron has considerable experience, education, training, enthusiasm, and intuition into the workings of motorcycles. He is able to bring all of this into words for

the enthusiast - without the need for an engineering degree.

I have never let anybody touch one of my bikes and I have been working on others for 8 yrs or so and this book still taught me a great deal on information in a easy to read format,, this is a must for beginners and advanced mechanics or do-it-yourselfers

Despite the misleading cover, this is a wonderfully compiled book of all things related to how a motorcycle handles. I passed over this book several times because the cover made me think it was a book on how to do wheelies and stupid sportbike stunts. I could not have been more wrong. This is a must have book for anybody who likes to wrench on their motorcycle in the garage and wants to improve upon the design without making things worse. Cameron is brilliant at explaining the physics of how and why a motorcycle behaves the way it does without having to delve into the intricate mathematical equations so commonly found in books of this nature.

This book is very informative and simple to read. Cameron easily educates you without getting too technical. In about 15 minutes he had me understanding the operation of a turbo system without boring me with scientific jargon. He covers all aspects of the bike. Good for people who want to know about exhaust, jetting your carbs, suspension setup, etc. Loved it.

The book cuts through the ridiculous claims made by many aftermarket parts companies. It covers practically every performance modification you can make to your bike, listing the advantages and disadvantages of each. By far, the best part of the book is that it explains the "why?" behind the modifications so that you can make the best decision based on your individual riding skills/style. Firestone and Ford should read the section on tire pressure!

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