

Tips on Tire, Oil and Light Maintenance

by Tim, Owner of Bikers Bay

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Tires should fit you...not the bike.

What is the best tire ...is a question often asked by many of our customers? The answer is more based on you than the bike. Sure you have to get the technical stuff right like size, weight capacity, radial

or bias etc, but when it comes to the "best tire" it is more about the way you ride.

There are industry standards for measuring the width, height and weight capacities, which must be matched to your bike, but after that, each tire manufacture has its own design. The areas that vary the most are the tread pattern, the radius across the tread and the rubber compounds used to make the tires. These components combine to set the ride and handling characteristics of the tire. Tires, like AVONS, that have a greater radius and softer compound will "hook up" the best and provides the greatest lean angles for aggressive riding and tight twisties. If you are a cruiser or straight liner, than a tire with a flatter radius and a harder compound (Continental or Bridgestones) will provide a larger patch of rubber for improved stability and greater durability, but give up a little in the twisties. If you need to have Harley Davidson on your tires, than Dunlop are your choice, for now, but in the future you will be riding Michelins. The Metzlers have become a very popular tire as they are a good middle of the road tire providing a greater lean angle than the stock Dunlop but still providing good stability for cruising. So in the end it is more about the how you ride that determines the best tire. Next time you are shopping for tires talk to your shop technician or stop by Bikers Bay and we will work with you to find the right tire that fit you and your bike.

Ride Safe,

Tim Brewer - Bikers Bay