

## Test Rides by Sarah by Sarah Heiden [www.ridenow.com](http://www.ridenow.com)

Just a few short weeks before, I drove into the Department of Motor Vehicle and had that magic “M” added to my driver’s license. Now, I was sitting on the leather seat and exhilaration was running through my veins. I was going to do it.

Take my first ride on the open road. Be one of the few, not only on a motorcycle, but also one of the few women on a motorcycle. But this was not just any motorcycle I was riding. This was the brand new Can Am Spyder. This new innovation in on road riding hasn’t even been introduced to the public yet, and won’t be until September. I was going to be one of the first to



actually ride it on the street. Of course, nervousness swept over me, but as I hit that engine switch the fear started to subside. I grabbed the clutch, turned the throttle and slowly was moving forward. As I kept going, little by little the fear left my body. I looked down at the speedometer and noticed that I was not at school zone speeds anymore. I was actually going the speed limit. The fear immediately left my body. This isn’t that bad. Everything that I learned in my riding course flooded back naturally and I was riding. The wind blowing

in my face, the feel of the engine beneath me, the thrill of shifting from one gear to another and the speed was beyond words can describe. The machine was a dream to handle. Every turn was smooth and stable. It was easy to shift, easy to maneuver and easy to brake. With linked brakes, I never had to worry about over breaking. I felt safer than I have ever felt on a bike. Of course, I learned on a regular two wheeled motorcycle that would clunk around on the short course, but this was different. There was no leaning around turns, I never feared that I would lay down the bike and end up on the road. I felt safe and best of all, comfortable. Not only that, but the attention that I got while riding it was better than I could have ever imagined. Those who have never seen a Spyder, and even those who have seen one, were intrigued. The wide stance of the unit (about 60 inches wide) and the three wheel design grabbed everyone’s attention right away. “What is that thing?” is what I kept hearing over and over again. “It’s great” was my only response. The Rotax 990cc engine took me quickly and easily through traffic, but unfortunately, my ride had to end sometime. I enjoyed every minute that I could. The smell of the open road and fuel, the sound of the engine as I shifted from one gear to the next and was charging along faster and faster, the roar of the engine beneath my body, and the scenery zooming by me was enough to last forever. I was sold. No more fear of riding, no more nervousness to get on the open road and ride with traffic and even no more fear to go fast! I was now a true motorcycle babe.

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