

## TECHICAL TIP:

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When I was asked to write a tech tip for this issue I ran over several subjects in my mind, tires, suspension, electrical, engine, drive train, just to name a few, I ran over all the options, trying to come up with a subject that would not cause someone to say: hey that's not right, that's not correct, that's not what I do, that's not what my mechanic said. That's when I decided to suggest a subject that is totally new, let's not look for the solution to your problem let's look at what your problem really is.

Being a mechanic for longer than I wish to recall, the biggest complaint I have heard in this biz is "I took my bike to so & so's shop and they didn't fix the problem", or "that guy told me to do this and it didn't work". That's how I came up with the subject of my article. Are you ready?

All shops are not the same. When going into a repair shop for a problem or for service be prepared. When you drop off your bike, you are not always talking with the mechanic who will be working on it. It's not fair to blame the mechanic for an electrical problem when you told the service writer. And keep in mind that, "service writers" write down what you say not what they think. So be very specific.

Some examples: Let's say your bike just quits. Does it quit when it's hot; when it revs high; when you turn right; when you turn left; when you hit a bump? How about vibrations? Does it happen all the time; in every gear; accelerating; decelerating? Watch your rpm, and your speed, throttle and gear position. Is the clutch in or out? Give the "service writer" some information but don't give your opinion or you may come out of the shop with a lot of unnecessary parts.

Here's another tip, if you bring your bike in with a leak from the primary area. Has it been leaking for the last 100 or 5000 miles? This would be helpful for the mechanic to know. Also, take the time to grab a can of degreaser and stop off at the car wash on your way to the shop. Remember the easier he can find the leak the faster it's out of the shop and the less money you out of pocket.

All these things are very helpful to the guy that's working on your ride. So even if you say it to the service writer, make sure he is writing it down. If he isn't, insist that he does or ask to speak to the mechanic personally especially if it's the second time it's been back for the same problem. Remember it's your dime it's your time. Jim