

Trike

Suspension

By Jim Allen

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"Stop in for a Demo Ride and ask us how to Trike your bike"

www.SouthWestTrikes.com



Probably the most confusing aspect to the new trike market is the suspension systems and how they differ. In general there are two common types. They are identified as either independent or variations of the solid axle.

I obtained the data from the manufacturers web sites. Some were more detailed than others.

The most common brands in the Phoenix area are:

- California Side Car – Independent suspension featuring an opposing rocker, mono –shock design with Vertical stabilizer.
- Champion Side Car – Solid Axle with Zero Flex Swing Arm and OEM shocks.
- DFT – Independent suspension with a four coil over gas shocks. It provides tunable stance, balance and vertical position.
- Harley Davidson – Solid axle (See Lehman)
- Lehman – Solid axle with coil over air shocks. The No-Lean design is the exact opposite of independent suspension. Independent platforms are designed to allow shock compression on one side of the Trike while allowing extension on the opposite side. For this reason, body roll or "sway" must be expected, especially at highway speeds.
- Motor Trike – Solid axle with air ride suspension. It is unique in that the ride quality and handling characteristics split the difference between the traditional solid axle design and the independent rear suspension. You adjust the air pressure low for the ride of an independent suspension or higher for the performance of a solid axle.
- Trike Shop – Independent suspension with dual lateral trailing arm. The True-Track stabilizer bar, also know as an anti-sway bar, is a flexible link between the tow trailing arms. The bar uses "torsion effect" to always try to keep the trike righted or sitting square to the ground.

The general public thinks there is no difference in the ride and that all Trikes are the same. Customers have also been misled into believing the trike they are looking at has the suspension they are interested in.

Bottom line is to take a test drive. Believe me, it is the only way you will know for sure.

Trikeman
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