

WHY THE NEED FOR SUSPENSION?

The Basics

One of the most overlooked aspects of increasing a rider's performance is suspension. A rider may have the fastest bike with incredible performance, but if the bike cannot be controlled properly or the rider fatigues prematurely all other performance enhancers are lost. The lack of properly understanding of how a high performing tailor made suspension directly improves traction, control, and comfort cannot be overlooked. Once the decision has been made to confront the issue of suspension then and only then can the total performance package be delivered.

The Manufactures Role

Unfortunately manufacturers cannot address suspension to meet the needs of an individual rider seeking superior performance. Manufacturers mass-produce suspension that must cover a wide variety of riders, conditions, and tracks. Lets say for example, a manufacturers suspension must be capable of carrying a 105 lb rider on a sand track, to a 300 lb rider on a hard packed super cross course. Based upon this truth, the need for a tailor-made suspension becomes evidently clear.

The Goals

The goals of riders, racers and motorcycle enthusiasts alike are really the same. How can they maximize control, performance, and safety while delivering the highest level of enjoyment, comfort, and benefit?

The Variables

The bike, suspension, application, rider and conditions are not all the same. They vary in many different ways. How the bike, suspension, and the rider respond depend largely upon how accurately all these factors have been assessed. In building the best suspension tailored for the individual, the suspension company must look at each of these variables separately and then address them as a whole.

- Ø The Bike. What make, type, and year of bike will be used.
- Ø The application. What types of racing will the suspension and bike encounter?
- Ø The conditions. Under what type of conditions will the bike be raced and ridden.
- Ø The Rider. How much does a rider weigh? What are the rider's height and their ability? What are the rider's strengths and weaknesses?

The Decision

Once a decision is made to customize a suspension the choices of who will perform the work will be crucial. Often the choices available to the customer can be misleading, un-informing, and fundamentally incorrect. Suspension shops and producers are not all alike and vastly differ in many ways. The majority of suspension providers and approaches fail to address the complete formula that deliver the best solution to meet the