

No Place To Race – <http://www.mac.sa.gov.au/noplacetorace>

Mick Doohan on the bike

The following is a transcript of Mick talking about what to look out for with bike selection and maintenance, recorded for the 'No Place to Race' website.

0:00

Choosing a bike

There's a lot of motorcycles on the markets so it's very hard to choose which is right for you. Depending on your style of riding, depending on what you need the machine for – if you're riding on a Sunday afternoon – just occasionally, then it's a completely different motorcycle than if you want one to commute to work.

The bikes they range obviously from what you'd generally be riding from step-throughs, all the way up to 1500cc. They're all very powerful, and I think it all comes down to the size of the rider at the end of the day. You don't want something too heavy that will over-balance and create injury from the sheer size.

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Tyres

Motorcycle tyres are a very critical part of safety – you need to make sure they are at their best pressure. The last thing you want is an over-inflated tyre or an under-inflated tyre. I think choice is a difficult one for most people. You need to assess what sort of riding style you have – whether you are commuting, the general ride, or whether you are doing more weekend cruising. So always ask your dealer to steer you in the right direction with a tyre that's going to be most suitable for you.

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Chain

Another thing, when you're filling up with gas at the petrol station, to keep in mind is the chain – a very critical part of the motorcycle and very good to keep lubed, and at the right tension.

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Servicing

Keeping your motorcycle healthy with servicing is a key ingredient to keeping yourself safe. Regardless of how many kilometers you do, whether it be 10 or 5,000, - if you're doing 5,000 every few months then I would recommend having the bike serviced. If you are only doing a few hundred kilometers every year, I would STILL recommend having the motorcycle serviced every year. That's a great way to stay on top of the brakes, the suspension and a lot of other parts on the motorcycle which can be critical when you need them. The last thing you want to have is a motorcycle not being able to perform when you need it.

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Things to check

Motorcycles are not very large machines. It doesn't take very long to just have a general look over the machine to see if the tyres are inflated correctly, the chain's all set, the brakes have enough fluid and they're actually working. A quick 30 second glance over the motorcycle will keep you safe for the ride ahead.