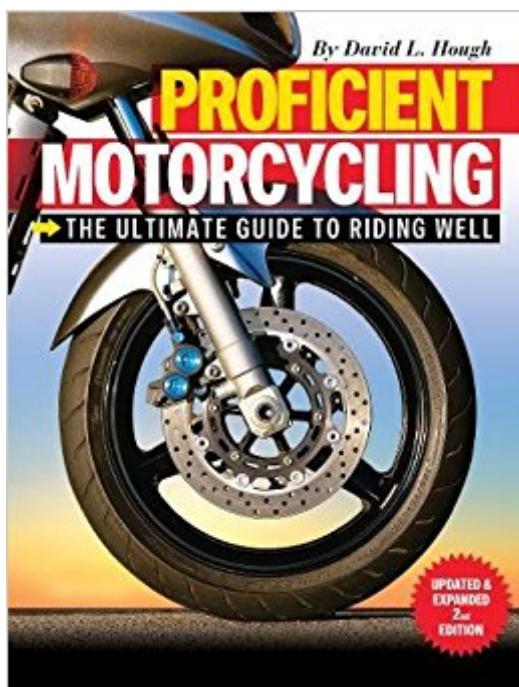


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# Proficient Motorcycling: The Ultimate Guide To Riding Well



## Synopsis

This best-selling book is also #1 book in motorcycle safety (Nielsen BookScan) and essential reading for all motorcyclists regardless of their years of experience. Author David L. Hough, a revered motorcycle author, columnist, and riding-safety consultant, lays out a clear course for all riders who want to sharpen their handling skills and improve their rides. This second edition, expanded and now in full color, offers new riders and road warriors the exact kind of advice they need to be prepared for anything when on the road, how to avoid accidents, and how to handle the unexpected. Hough, who began motorcycling in the 1960s, tackles every imaginable topic; from the mechanics of the bike, selection of the right-sized bike, and basic riding skills to night riding, group outings, and advanced survival tactics. In the chapter called "Motorcycle Dynamics," Hough spells out the equipment needed and basic skills required to control a bike, and specifically keeping the rider's safety and ability to avoid potentially injurious or fatal crashes. The author is outspoken and direct when it comes to safety, and he emphasizes the importance of the rider's braking abilities and spells out how to improve them. The chapter offers six tried-and-true techniques for quick-stop tactics, critical for every rider to understand and master. He also addresses other vital skills that riders need to evaluate and improve, such as turning, maintaining balance and stability, and steering. He defines, compares, and analyzes the ins and outs of steering and control: direct steering, countersteering, push steering, out-tracking, coning, u-turns, and directional control. The chapter called "Cornering Habits" is a virtual master class in acceleration, deceleration, use of weight, throttle, leaning, and handling challenging terrain. Hough's skill as a photographer and illustrator adds a graphic element to his books that leads to immediate understanding of the concepts he explains. The detail offered in each section of the book can only come from decades on the road, and the author is the consummate instructor, assigning homework to the readers in the form of exercises to practice and improve specific techniques that he outlines and illustrates in the text. Any rider who would venture out on the road without David Hough's voice in his head takes an unnecessary risk with his own life. Proficient Motorcycling takes riders from long, snaking country roads right into the traffic of the big city, and Hough offers the best advice for riders dealing with the most challenging conditions, whether it's road construction, snap-jawed intersections, skateboarders, or suddenly slippery road surfaces. A critical section of the book offers riders advice on how to deal with automobiles, including aggressive car drivers, oblivious SUV drivers, or "blind" truck drivers. The book offers the kind of first-hand experience that can literally save riders' lives, as illustrated in the chapters "Booby Traps" and "Special Situations."

which offer evasive tactics and advice to avoid and handle everything from slick surfaces, curbs, and construction plates to ferocious dogs, hazardous wildlife, and difficult weather conditions. The final chapter of the book, "Sharing the Ride" is geared toward experienced riders who travel together in groups or who travel with a second passenger on the bike. Topics covered are formation, packing for trips, communication between riders, sidecars, trikes, and more. The book concludes with a resources section of organizations, training schools, educational tools, and websites; a glossary of 80+ terms; and a complete index.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Essential reading. Open any page and you will be richly rewarded. The best-in-class!" -- Roadgear, Inc."If there is one book every motorcyclist should own, this is it!" -- WebBikeWorld"The ultimate biker's bible." -- Roadbike"[Proficient Motorcycling] contains all the information needed to become and remain a safe rider." -- BMW Owners News --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Author David L. Hough is known around the world as an expert in safe street riding techniques and is a reknown celebrity with U.S. and Canadian bikers for his contributions to life-saving techniques that help bikers be safe while maximizing their ride. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is fantastic. The entire book is essentially a discussion on the dangers of motorcycle riding

and gave me tips on how to get myself out of bad situations and more importantly, how to avoid them in the first place. Everything from weather, road conditions, other motorists, techniques, riding/control positions, unexpected situations, and health dangers such as hypothermia, dehydration and heatstroke. The subject matter is not presented in a negative or lecture-like format. It felt much more like asking an experienced friend for advice. By not being shy about discussing topics I would rather not think about, the author made me realise there is a lot more to motorcycle riding than what I learned at the MSF classes and forced me to ask myself "Are you sure you want to get a motorcycle?" The apprehension about buying my first motorcycle has been reduced and I have an increased desire and determination to learn how to control and operate a motorcycle with a high level of proficiency. The author recognized fun is an important part of riding and gave plenty of tips on how proficient riding and preparation increases the fun to be had. This book was exactly what I needed.

This is a really good book for all drivers, not just riders. The skills discussed are suitable for all drivers. There is plenty of rider specific content but there are also lots of tips and tricks that I learned so long ago I forgot about them and lots of stuff I did not know. I wanted to teach my daughter how to drive but after reading this book I realized that having her read this book and taking a professional course might be a better idea. If you are thinking of getting a bike or even if you already have one this book is a must read. I recommend this book to every rider or driver. Hands down a valuable tool for all motor vehicle operators but especially riders.

I gave this book five stars because part of the book was informative. Yes, he goes on and on about things when I just want to know what to do when I find myself facing crosswinds that threaten to knock the bike from under me with forces that resemble me smacking a brick wall. Well, he finally does tell you and the information is relevant, detailed, and helpful. I tell you, I have seen videos that taught me a great deal, but when you are in a location that limits your ability to watch a simple DVD, is great to learn even more from a book dedicated at the very thing that you just love to do, ride your bike. That said, the book is big. Not that it has a huge amount of pages. The dimensions are huge. So taking it on a bike trip might be cumbersome. The pages are beautiful.. why? They really are thick, shiny, and well made. The book is just high quality stuff. Well, hope this helped. See you on the road.. well, on the bike, not on the road.. well, the bike should be on the road with you on the bike not you on the road with no bike. Glad we sorted that out.

Am a new bike rider. Am also over 50. Been wanting to fulfill a life long dream to own a bike and ride. But I was apprehensive given my age and with no riding experience. I did the sensible thing before buying my first bike and that is to enroll in a riding school. Honda offers a great riding course here in Manila (Philippines) and I would strongly suggest taking this course even before you decide if riding bikes is for you and before purchasing a bike. However, I felt that I needed more than just the classroom and practical riding sessions of the school. I was looking for some wise old guy (or gal) who's seen it all in terms of what to expect while riding. This book is well written, the author is funny and there are a lot of learnings to be had for new riders based on the author's own personal experience. I certainly got my money's worth with this book. I got the paperback version. There is a kindle edition that I also downloaded to my Kindle, Ipad and iPhone. Just in case I need to refer to certain situations again. Highly recommended for new riders!

The bible of street bikes. If you're a new rider then you need this. And if you're an experience rider, you need this. It really helps you to understand the dynamics and hazards involved in motorbike riding. The more you know as a rider, the more likely it is that you can avoid stupid mistakes that can cost you limb and life. Hard to avoid being hit by someone from behind with all the texting and driving these days, but this book gives you practical tactics and strategies to avoid higher risk situations. For example - deer tend to come out at dusk and dawn....and this is very true...so just avoid those twilight hours and ride during the day. This book does not sufficiently cover high speed cornering the way *Twist of the Wrist I* and *II* do by Keith Code. That's for more advanced riders who want to learn about cornering (which, by the way, is what I love about motorbikes the most). So if you're never going to the track and you just want to understand more about motorbike safety, then you must read this book a few times.

The best part of the book is the explanation of rake and steering physics - this is a great lesson for someone trying to make sense of their motorcycle's behavior that I haven't seen elsewhere. That said, everything else in here was probably covered by your MSF course (assuming you took one). I found the visuals falling out of date, and it's a little hard to take things seriously when the discussion is focused around bike models from over a decade ago. Power/weight ratios and electronic technologies (such as remote suspension adjustment) have changed so much in the last evolutionary spurt of motorcycling that I think this book deserves an update. I don't want to diminish the value of the content in this book, but I will say I feel like my curiosity was not satisfied as much as I expected for a book that comes so highly recommended.

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