

JUDGING SIMPLICITY

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With motorcycle magazine articles, sometimes credibility gets stretched.

A recent new model test highlighted that the bike is good in many areas despite its simplicity - called "bare bones" simplicity. However the report went on describing the ride-by-wire system as having three different engine power modes and when selected changes throttle response, traction control and ABS intervention. (Bit primitive if it didn't also vary the suspension adjustment!)

The punch line to all this simplicity was if any of the designed three models are not to your liking, you can then individually set the ABS and TC response.

"Simplicity" suggests ongoing reliability but as the article did not go there, reader speculation occurs. In say three years (20,000Km?) are the "simple" electronics still working OK, as they can in vibration-less cars, or like our home computers, needing repeat attention?

Yes this is all pretty negative, but it's instructive to compare with the real simplicity of some of our classic bikes, eg. Carbs gravity fed down a pipe, length of wire controls throttle, sole button activates horn, traction control is rider's right wrist.

PS. Another new model release reported an electronic "six-axis inertial measurement, three dimensional motion-detection system" (simply prevents one from falling off?)