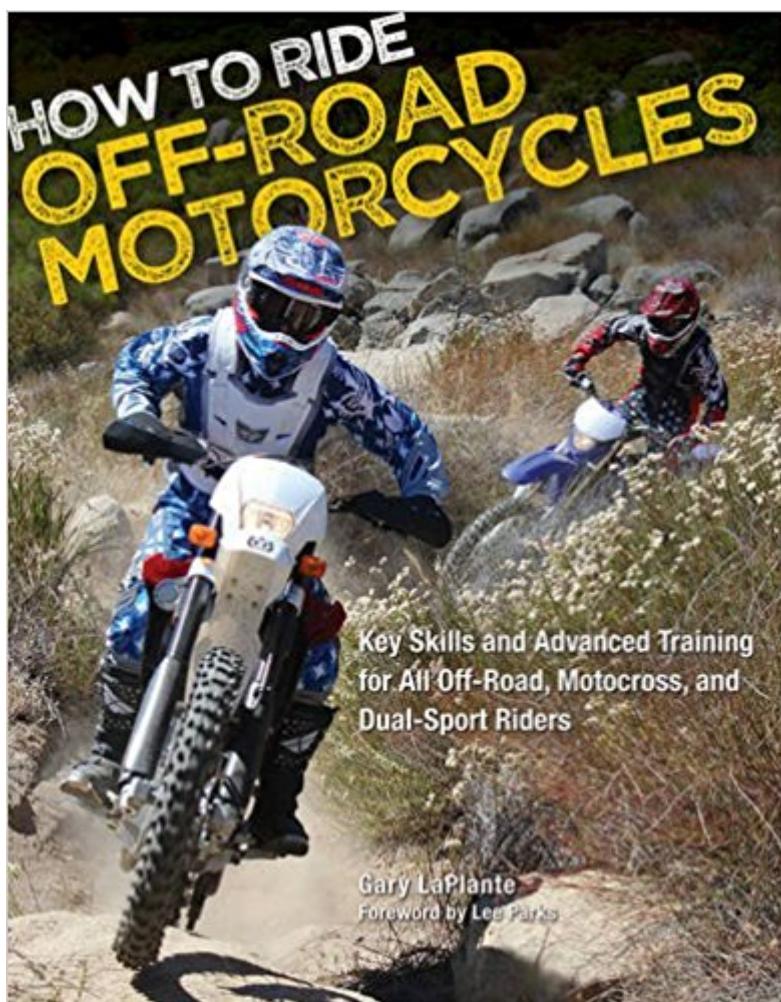


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# How To Ride Off-Road Motorcycles: Key Skills And Advanced Training For All Off-Road, Motocross, And Dual-Sport Riders



## Synopsis

Off-road riding is one of motorcycling's most popular pursuits and also one of its best training grounds for improving street-riding skills. Off-road riding takes many forms, from motocross and enduro racing, to dual-sport day trips, to trail riding, to adventure tours. No matter the specific pursuit, all dirt riding (and much street riding) shares the same basic skill set. *How to Ride Off-Road Motorcycles* schools the reader in all the skills necessary to ride safely and quickly off-road. Chapters cover the basics, such as body position, turning, braking, and throttle control, then proceed to advanced techniques, such as sliding, jumps, wheelies, hill-climbing, and more. If you've ever wanted to try dirt riding or if you're an experienced rider looking to sharpen your skill set, *How to Ride Off-Road Motorcycles* is a perfect riding coach.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Motorbooks; First edition (August 13, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0760342733

ISBN-13: 978-0760342732

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.5 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 56 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #320,232 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Motorcycles #67 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Motorcycles > Repair & Performance #179 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Motor Sports

## Customer Reviews

Ã¢ To the uninitiated, riding an off-road motorcycle may look as easy as sitting down, putting your feet on the pegs, and twisting the throttle. But for anyone who has ever tried to tackle an off-road trail or even a gravel road on a dirt bike, they know that there is so much more skill involved than meets the eye.Ã¢ At any given moment, both hands and both feet are busy working the clutch, brakes, and transmission. At the same time, the rider is transferring his weight just so, all while applying a precise amount of throttle to keep the bike upright and moving. In other words, itÃ¢â€š not as easy as it looks!Ã¢ Learning to ride a dirt bike with no guidance is not only risky and time-consuming, but prevents you from reaching your full potential. In *How to Ride Off-Road*

Motorcycles, author Gary LaPlante takes his many years as a dirt bike riding instructor and lays out a proven step-by-step practice guide for any rider interested in heading off-road or sharpening his bike-handling skills. He begins with the basics of shifting, stopping, and turning, and moves on to more advanced techniques such as hill climbing, wheelies, jumping, and power slides. How to handle specific trail obstacles such as rocks, ruts, and water crossings is also detailed in the colorful how-to photo sequences found throughout the book. Gary also gives sound advice on how to choose the bike that's right for you and how to maintain it for optimum performance; how to deal with the weather, altitude, and trail conditions found throughout the country; off-road etiquette; and racing techniques for motocross and trials competitions. Additionally, he makes it clear how street riders' on-road skills are improved by understanding how to handle a bike off road. Following the steps in *How to Ride an Off-Road Motorcycle* is the best investment you can make to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and rewarding dirt bike experience. Â Â Â

Gary LaPlante (southern California) has over 43 years of experience riding, racing, testing, and working on a wide variety of motorcycles. During that time, Gary developed excellent teaching and communication skills by working in key positions in the motorcycle industry and having over 12 years' experience of personally teaching riders almost every week while operating MotoVentures Inc., which offers tours, training, and trials services in Anza, California. Gary's diversity of technical riding skills and wide range of professional experience has enabled him to create his own teaching curriculum, which is what *How to Ride Off-Road Motorcycles* is based upon.

[www.motoventures.com](http://www.motoventures.com)Lee Parks is the author of the best-selling riding skills book *Total Control*. Based on his internationally renowned *Total Control Advanced Riding Clinics*, *Total Control* is considered by many to be the riding skills bible. Parks formerly edited *Motorcycle Consumer News*, *Motorcycle Product News*, and *Motorcyclist* magazines. He is also the owner of Lee Parks Design, a motorcycle glove and apparel manufacturer in Apple Valley, CA.

I'm an experienced road rider, toured 45 of the 48, several Canadian Provinces... ridden big BMW highway machines at high speeds for long distance and logged thousands and thousands of miles. So getting on a little dirt bike for some off road fun after 35 years of being away from riding the in the dirt should be a cake walk, right?? Sure.... three hours later it looked like I'd been dragged behind that motorcycle rather than having tried to ride it, Yeah... I provided endless amusement for the experienced riders I was with... lucky to get away with no dental damage just some minor flesh wounds....Nothing to do but buy a dirt bike and start over from scratch with forgotten skills. This

book starts with the very basics, recommends riding exercises to build skill with obstacles, balance, and fundamentals. This old dog is learning new tricks and this is the guidebook for that. My guess is that someone with a good grip on skills might use this more as a refresher, but for someone like myself on the climbing up to the bottom rung, it is great!!!!

This gets a top rating for several reasons. First, it is built on solid, practical experience based on training thousands of riders to ride off-road or improve their off-road skills. Second, it is concise with easy to implement tricks and techniques that build skill and confidence. Third, it is as good for beginners as it is for super experienced experts. What ever dirt riding skills you want to develop, whether its doing wheelies, sliding, climbing hills or traversing whoops and sand, the author shows you precisely how to accomplish it - laying out the basic technique, showing some practice exercises and then how to evaluate how you're doing. This is just a great book!

Good Stuff! Gary knows his stuff. I loved the book and then I went ahead and took the class on site in Anza, California. That was incredible! I've learned so much in 1 day (more than my entire life riding on my own). I have a 650 KLR and needed more confidence off-road. I'm a small guy (140 pounds) so that big KLR with 6 its gallons fuel tank can be challenging to keep up with. Now I feel like a champion. Up hill, down hill, softest sand you can think off. I go off-road almost every weekend now and I'm not afraid of anything anymore and I still haven't dropped that bike on the ground yet! This is the best investment any Rider should make (whether you go off-road or not). I sent all my friends to it and I will send my kids this summer.

This is the quintessential book for riding dirt bikes. Gary's methods teach riders the core skills (many of which are counterintuitive) that translate into advanced techniques with practice. I started riding in my thirties, and as an occasional weekender have always felt a few steps behind in my understanding. This book breaks down all aspects of riding and, with practice, opens up all the mysteries that lead to more confidence and ultimately, smoother, faster more confident riding. My 11 yr old son and I have read through this book several times AND taken classes at the Washington State franchise of Motoventures, and had a blast. We will continue to use this curriculum and take more classes.

I've been a street rider for quite a while. I recently picked up trail riding. On one of my recent outings I hurt my foot pretty bad so I had some time off. I decided to pick up this book to educate myself and

learn better off road riding techniques. The book is well written and entertaining. It has some good visual aids and does a pretty good job of explaining various techniques used on a dirt bike. There are lots of drills that you can use to practice at the end of each chapter. This book seems like a good primer or refresher for off road riding, but the key will be to get out and practice. There's just no replacement for time spent on the bike.

Through regular practice this book will improve your offroad skills. Having a background in music, I find it rare to find an educational book that approaches any new skill with the requirement of regular practice and a step by step growth on new skills. (A definite pedagogical approach.) This book has that and more. It will take you as far as you want to go with your skills and provides excellent advice on what bikes to start with. Great book. Wish I had more areas to practice near my home, but when I do get to areas that I can practice this book will be in my saddle bag.

This book presented me with a clear lesson plan for improving my offroad motorcycling skills. Gary's text is easy to comprehend and the accompanying photos are worth their thousand words.

I enrolled my son in Gary's level 2 class, and this book is the perfect companion and reference. I highly recommend both the class and the book.

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