

Motorcycle ancillaries

Motorcycles are often used for holidays and various items of ancillary equipment are often fitted to make this use more pleasurable.

The items discussed in this handout are:

- Satellite Navigation
- Hands-free Telephone
- Luggage
- Tank Bag/Map holder

Satellite Navigation

Satellite navigation systems are becoming more commonplace on motorcycles either as a manufacturer fit or aftermarket accessory

If used correctly they can enhance your motorcycling experience.

- If possible have the system connected to a headset allowing spoken instructions to be conveyed (Some continental countries prohibit the use of in-ear speakers).
- The screen will inevitably be small and possibly difficult to see.
- Programme the system before riding off and if you need to change route criteria stop in a safe area before attempting this.

Be wary of the possible distraction at junction and roundabouts when concentration should be on your riding.



Hands-free Telephone

Many motorcyclists now have access to hands-free telephone facilities whilst riding.

- This may be through navigation systems, bluetooth crash helmets, headsets or hard wired systems.
- Although the use of these systems is not illegal research shows they are a distraction and do slow response times.
- Good practice is to stop in a safe place to make or take calls.

Luggage

Various types of luggage carrying capability are available for motorcycles.

- Hard Panniers. These are generally a bolted on accessory firmly secured with a locking mechanism. As long as they are fitted correctly they are generally reliable.
- Top boxes. Again generally bolted on, be careful about over-loading as they may severely destabilise the machine.
- Soft luggage often secured with elastic straps, take care to secure it properly. Poorly strapped luggage has fouled the rear wheel and caused accidents.

Whatever type of luggage is fitted it will affect the handling of the machine.

- Suspension may have to be adjusted to compensate for weight changes.
- Panniers may increase the width of the machine and will affect filtering ability.
- Aerodynamics will be affected and the machine may become unstable at speed.

Tank Bag / Map holder

A bag secured to the tank is a handy place to keep items which need to be easily accessible during the ride.

- When fixing take care it does not interfere with the movement of the handlebars.
- It should not obstruct your view of the instruments.

If used to hold a map, be prepared to stop to read it. You would not try to read a map whilst driving.

