GENERAL

2008 harley davidson street glide owners manual

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Introduction

When you first hop onto a 2008 Harley-Davidson Street Glide, the sheer power, iconic style, and unmistakable rumble can be overwhelming. Yet, owning a classic Harley is more than just a thrill; it's a responsibility. The **2008 Harley Davidson Street Glide owners manual** is your essential guide to unlocking the full potential of this legendary cruiser while ensuring safety, performance, and longevity. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a newcomer to the Harley family, this manual offers a wealth of information—from basic operation to detailed maintenance procedures and troubleshooting tips.

In this article, we'll dive deep into the manual's structure, highlight the most critical sections, and provide practical tips on how to use it for everyday care. By the end, you'll feel confident navigating the manual's pages and keeping your Street Glide in peak condition.

Overview of the 2008 Harley-Davidson Street Glide

The 2008 Street Glide is part of Harley-Davidson's iconic "Street" line, known for its smooth touring capabilities and classic aesthetics. Equipped with a 1070cc V-twin engine, the Street Glide delivers a blend of power and torque that's ideal for long-distance rides. Its touring package includes a comfortable seat, a large windscreen, and a spacious luggage area, making it a favorite among long-haul enthusiasts.

Key features of the 2008 model include:

- Engine: 1070cc V-twin with liquid cooling
- Transmission: 5-speed manual
- Suspension: Adjustable front forks and rear shock
- Brakes: Dual front disc brakes and a single rear disc brake
- Instrumentation: Analog speedometer, tachometer, and trip computer
- Comfort: Adjustable seat height and a large windscreen

Understanding the core components of your Street Glide is the first step toward mastering the manual and maintaining your bike's performance.

Where to Find the Owners Manual

Harley-Davidson typically provides the owners manual in a hardback book or as a PDF download. If you purchased your Street Glide new, the manual should have been included in the original packaging. If you bought a used bike, the previous owner may have kept the manual, or you can request it from your local dealer.

For convenience, many owners prefer the digital version. You can download a PDF from Harley-Davidson's official website by navigating to the "Owner's Manuals" section and selecting the 2008 Street Glide. Once downloaded, you'll have instant access to the manual on any device, making it easier to reference while riding.

Key Sections of the Manual

The **2008 Harley Davidson Street Glide owners manual** is organized into several logical sections, each

addressing a specific aspect of ownership. Below is a breakdown of these sections and what you'll find within them.

Safety and Warning

Every motorcycle manual starts with safety information. This section covers:

- Proper gear and protective clothing
- Pre ride safety checks
- Emergency procedures and first aid
- Legal requirements, such as helmet laws and registration

Reading this section ensures you're prepared for safe riding conditions and helps prevent common accidents.

Basic Information

Here you'll learn about the bike's specifications, including:

1. Engine displacement and power output
2. Weight and dimensions
3. Fuel capacity and consumption
4. Electrical system details

These facts are essential when planning trips or troubleshooting issues.

Starting and Stopping

The manual provides step by step instructions for:

- Cold and warm up starts
- Using the kickstarter and electric starter
- Shutting down the engine safely
- Recognizing warning lights and error messages

Following these procedures reduces wear on your engine and ensures a smooth start every time.

Riding Techniques

For riders seeking to improve their skills, this section covers:

1. Cornering and body positioning
2. Braking techniques for wet and dry conditions
3. Lane changes and defensive riding
4. Using the bike's cruise control and other electronic aids

Mastering these techniques can elevate your riding experience and enhance safety.

Maintenance and Service

Regular maintenance keeps your Street Glide running reliably. The manual includes:

- Weekly and monthly checklists
- Oil change intervals and recommended oils
- Brake pad replacement guidelines
- Fluid checks (coolant, brake fluid, and transmission)
- Tire pressure and tread depth monitoring

Adhering to these schedules can extend the life of your motorcycle and prevent costly repairs.

Troubleshooting

When something goes wrong, the troubleshooting guide is invaluable. It covers common symptoms and their root causes, such as:

1. Engine misfires and idle issues
2. Electrical failures and battery drain
3. Brake pedal slippage or squealing
4. Suspension noise or handling problems

Each symptom is paired with a step by step diagnostic path, helping you quickly identify and resolve problems.

Warranty and Service

Harley-Davidson's warranty information explains:

- Coverage limits and exclusions
- Authorized service centers and parts
- How to file a warranty claim
- Extended warranty options

Understanding your warranty rights protects you from unexpected expenses.

How to Use the Manual for Daily Maintenance

While the manual may seem dense, you can extract daily maintenance steps that are quick and easy to perform. Below is a practical checklist you can follow each time you ride.

1. Pre Ride Inspection

   Check tire pressure and tread
2. Inspect brake pads for wear
3. Verify fluid levels: oil, coolant, and brake fluid
4. Confirm all lights and indicators are functional

- Clean the bike's exterior to prevent corrosion
- Inspect for any visible damage or leaks
- Check chain tension and lubricate if necessary

- Replace engine oil and filter
- Inspect and replace spark plugs if needed
- Check battery terminals for corrosion

- Flush and refill coolant
- Inspect brake fluid and replace if low
- Check tire tread depth and rotate tires if required

By integrating these steps into your routine, you'll keep your Street Glide in top shape without overcomplicating the process.

Common Issues and Their Solutions

Even with diligent care, some problems can arise. Below are a few frequent issues along with concise solutions based on the manual's guidance.

Engine Stalling After a Long Ride

Stalling often results from a dirty air filter or a clogged fuel filter. According to the manual, you should:

- Replace the air filter if it’s visibly dirty
- Check the fuel filter and replace if clogged
- Inspect the throttle cable for proper adjustment

After addressing these points, test the bike to ensure smooth idling.

Brake Pedal Feeling Soft

A soft brake pedal can indicate low brake fluid or air in the brake lines. The manual recommends:

- Checking the brake fluid level and topping it up to the “Max” mark
- Bleeding the brake lines to remove any trapped air
- Replacing worn brake pads with OEM parts

Once these steps are completed, the pedal should feel firm and responsive.

Unusual Noise from the Front Forks

Noise can stem from worn fork seals or inadequate lubrication. Follow these steps:

1. Inspect the fork seals for wear or damage
2. Remove the forks and clean the internals
3. Reapply high quality fork oil as specified in the manual
4. Reinstall and test the suspension for smooth operation

Proper lubrication reduces noise and improves ride quality.

Battery Drain After Long Storage

If your bike has been stored for an extended period, the battery may lose charge. The manual advises:

- Removing the battery and charging it with a smart charger
- Checking for corrosion on battery terminals and cleaning them
- Installing a battery maintainer to keep the battery topped off during storage

These steps help preserve battery life and ensure reliable starts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some common queries that owners often have regarding the 2008 Street Glide and its manual.

Can I use aftermarket parts instead of OEM parts?

While aftermarket parts can be cheaper, the manual recommends using OEM or Harley approved components to maintain warranty coverage and ensure optimal performance.

How often should I replace the air filter?

The manual suggests inspecting the air filter after every 500 miles and replacing it if it’s more than 25% clogged. In dusty environments, consider a replacement every 250 miles.

What is the recommended oil change interval?

For the 2008 Street Glide, the manual recommends an oil change every 2,000 miles or every six months, whichever comes first. Always use the specified oil type.

Is it safe to ride with a full tank of fuel?

Yes, but the manual advises checking the fuel gauge regularly and ensuring the tank is not overfilled to prevent spillage or fuel system stress.

Can I modify the bike's suspension for a more aggressive ride?

Modifications are possible, but the manual cautions that altering suspension settings may affect handling and safety. Always consult a professional before making changes.

Additional Resources

For those who want to delve deeper into maintenance or customization, consider the following resources:

- Harley-Davidson Owner's Club: A community of riders who share tips, events, and support.
- Harley-Davidson Service Centers: Authorized service shops that can perform complex repairs and provide genuine parts.
- Online Forums: Websites like Harley Owners Group (HOG) and Harley-Davidson Forums offer peer advice and troubleshooting discussions.
- YouTube Tutorials: Many experienced riders post step by step maintenance videos tailored to the Street Glide.

Leveraging these resources alongside the manual can enhance your ownership experience.

Conclusion

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