

Harley Davidson Factory Service Manual Electra Glide 1959 To 1969

Harley-Davidson Factory Service Manual: Electra Glide 1959-1969 - Your Guide to Classic Motorcycle Restoration

Owning a classic Harley-Davidson Electra Glide from 1959 to 1969 is a dream for many motorcycle enthusiasts. These iconic machines represent a golden age of American motorcycle engineering and design. However, keeping these beauties on the road requires more than just love; it demands knowledge, precision, and the right resources. This is where the **Harley-Davidson factory service manual Electra Glide 1959-1969** becomes invaluable. This article will delve into the importance and practical applications of this essential document, exploring its features, usage, and the benefits it provides to owners and restorers.

Understanding the Importance of the Factory Service Manual

The **1959-1969 Electra Glide service manual** isn't just a collection of diagrams and instructions; it's the definitive guide to the inner workings of your classic motorcycle. It's the single most authoritative source of information on maintenance, repair, and restoration, providing details unavailable anywhere else. This manual, often referred to as a "factory manual" or "OEM manual," offers unparalleled accuracy and specificity compared to aftermarket publications. For those serious about preserving the integrity and value of their Electra Glide, this manual is indispensable. Many key aspects covered are crucial for anyone undertaking a project like this, and the availability of these manuals has become quite important as many of these bikes are becoming collector's items.

Specific Content & Features of the Manual

The factory service manuals for this era typically include detailed exploded diagrams showing the relationships between parts, torque specifications for every bolt and nut, wiring diagrams illustrating the electrical systems, troubleshooting guides for common problems, and step-by-step procedures for major overhauls - from engine rebuilds to carburetor adjustments. The level of detail is astonishing, often going beyond simple repair instructions to provide insights into the design philosophy and engineering choices of the original manufacturers. Specific sections often address:

- **Engine overhaul:** This includes detailed instructions on disassembling, inspecting, repairing, and reassembling the engine components.
- **Transmission and clutch:** Guidance on servicing and repairing these crucial elements of power transfer.
- **Electrical system diagnostics and repair:** Comprehensive schematics and troubleshooting steps for electrical issues.
- **Carburetor adjustment and repair:** Detailed procedures for tuning and rebuilding the carburetors for optimal performance.
- **Frame and chassis:** Information on frame alignment, suspension adjustments, and general chassis maintenance.

Finding a genuine **Harley-Davidson factory service manual Electra Glide 1959-1969** can be a challenge. Many original manuals are rare and command a significant price on the collector's market. However, reputable online retailers and specialist motorcycle parts suppliers often offer reprints or digital versions.

Benefits of Using a Factory Service Manual

The advantages of using the original **Harley Davidson Electra Glide factory service manual** are substantial. They extend beyond simply repairing a broken part; the manuals empower you to take complete control over your motorcycle's maintenance and restoration.

- **Accurate Information:** The information contained within is directly from the manufacturer, ensuring accuracy and reliability.
- **Preventative Maintenance:** The manuals provide schedules for preventative maintenance, helping avoid costly repairs down the line.
- **Troubleshooting Capabilities:** The troubleshooting sections allow for efficient diagnosis and repair of problems.
- **Preservation of Value:** By maintaining your motorcycle using the factory-recommended procedures, you increase its value and maintain its originality.
- **Improved Mechanical Understanding:** Studying the manual will give you a deeper understanding of your motorcycle's mechanical workings.
- **Avoid Costly Mistakes:** Following the manual's instructions reduces the likelihood of costly errors during repairs.

Using the Manual Effectively: Tips and Strategies

Working with a factory service manual requires a methodical approach. Here are some tips:

- **Read Carefully:** Before starting any work, carefully read through the relevant sections. Understand the steps fully before touching any tools.
- **Gather Tools and Parts:** Ensure you have all the necessary tools and parts before beginning a repair or maintenance task.
- **Take Your Time:** Rushing can lead to mistakes. Work slowly and methodically.
- **Take Notes and Pictures:** Document your progress with notes and photographs.

- **Consult Online Resources:** If you encounter difficulties, consult online forums and communities for additional guidance. However, always prioritize information from your original manual.
- **Safety First:** Always prioritize safety when working on your motorcycle. Wear appropriate safety gear and work in a well-ventilated area.

Finding and Acquiring Your Manual

As mentioned earlier, acquiring an original **Harley-Davidson Electra Glide factory service manual (1959-1969)** can be challenging. Your best bet is to check reputable online retailers specializing in vintage motorcycle parts, or attend motorcycle swap meets and events. Digital versions are also increasingly available, often offering search functions and easier navigation.

Conclusion

The **Harley-Davidson factory service manual Electra Glide 1959-1969** is an indispensable resource for anyone owning or restoring a classic Electra Glide. It's an investment that pays dividends in accurate information, preventative maintenance strategies, cost savings, and a deeper appreciation for the engineering marvel that is your vintage Harley. By using it effectively and safely, you can keep your classic machine on the road for years to come.

FAQ

Q1: Are there any differences between the manuals for different years within the 1959-1969 range?

A1: Yes, there are likely to be differences. Even small model-year changes can significantly alter components or systems. It's crucial to find a manual specifically for the year of your Electra Glide. Checking the model number on your bike will help you identify the correct manual.

Q2: Can I find a digital version of the manual?

A2: Yes, many reputable sellers now offer digital versions of these manuals in PDF format. These digital copies often offer search functions for easier navigation. Be cautious about using free, pirated versions, as they may contain inaccuracies or be incomplete.

Q3: How detailed are the exploded diagrams?

A3: The exploded diagrams are usually very detailed, showing the precise relationship between parts. This makes identifying individual components and their locations much easier.

Q4: What if I encounter a problem not covered in the manual?

A4: If you encounter a problem not specifically addressed in the manual, try searching online forums dedicated to classic Harley-Davidsons. You can also consult with experienced mechanics specializing in vintage motorcycles.

Q5: Are there any aftermarket alternatives to the factory manual?

A5: While aftermarket manuals exist, they are generally less detailed and may not be as accurate as the official factory manual. The factory manual remains the best resource for information specific to your model.

Q6: How much should I expect to pay for a genuine manual?

A6: The price varies widely depending on condition and availability. Expect to pay a premium for an original, well-preserved copy. Reprint or digital versions are usually more affordable.

Q7: Is it worth it to invest in a manual if I'm only planning minor maintenance?

A7: Even for minor maintenance, the factory manual provides valuable information about torque specifications and proper procedures, ensuring you don't damage your motorcycle. It's a worthwhile investment even for basic upkeep.

Q8: Where can I find reputable sellers of these manuals?

A8: Start by searching online through reputable motorcycle parts suppliers and auction sites, focusing on those specializing in vintage or classic Harley-Davidson parts. Always check seller reviews and ratings before purchasing.

Decoding the Mysteries: Your Guide to the Harley-Davidson Factory Service Manual (Electra Glide 1959-1969)

For devotees of classic American iron, the Harley-Davidson Electra Glide from 1959 to 1969 represents a golden era in motorcycle lore. These machines, robust and elegant, are valued possessions, demanding respect and diligent upkeep. This is where the Harley-Davidson factory service manual for this era becomes invaluable. It's not just a book; it's the key to understanding, preserving and deeply appreciating your classic Electra Glide.

This article will examine the features of this crucial manual, underscoring its value and offering helpful advice on how to best leverage its data. We'll cover topics ranging from basic problem-solving to complex engine restorations.

A Deep Dive into the Manual's Structure and Content:

The factory service manual isn't a basic how-to . It's a thorough assembly of data intended to aid both experienced mechanics and dedicated DIY enthusiasts . It's structured methodically, typically breaking down the Electra Glide into principal components :

- **Engine:** This section provides thorough diagrams and instructions for breakdown , examination , repair , and put-together of the engine's various components . It addresses everything from valve lash to piston ring replacement . Expect detailed instructions with clear illustrations .
- **Transmission and Clutch:** Similar depth is given to the transmission and clutch components. Identifying issues and performing replacements are detailed with accuracy .
- **Electrical System:** The wiring diagrams in this section are essential for diagnosing electronic malfunctions. Understanding the path of electricity is key to successfully fixing the lighting circuits.
- **Chassis and Suspension:** This section addresses repair of the chassis , suspension components, and the braking system . Proper alignment is vital for secure functioning .
- **Fuel and Carburetor Systems:** Troubleshooting carburetor malfunctions is a common task . The manual provides thorough information on fuel system calibration , maintenance and repair .

Beyond the Manual: Tips for Success:

While the manual is essential , achievement also requires supplementary tools :

- **Proper Tools:** Acquiring the right tools is essential for effective maintenance .
- **Clean Workspace:** A organized environment is crucial for preventing mistakes .
- **Patience and Persistence:** Working on a classic motorcycle necessitates persistence . Don't give up if you experience difficulties .
- **Consult Experts:** Don't hesitate to obtain help from experienced technicians if you encounter challenges you can't overcome alone.

Conclusion:

The Harley-Davidson factory service manual (Electra Glide 1959-1969) is a treasure trove of knowledge for anyone possessing one of these legendary motorcycles. It provides the knowledge to maintain these machines to their former magnificence. By utilizing its details, you can guarantee the life and performance of your Electra Glide for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. **Where can I find a copy of this manual?** Copies are often available through online marketplaces like eBay or specialized motorcycle parts suppliers. You might also find them in used bookstores .
2. **Is it necessary to have mechanical experience to use this manual?** While helpful, prior mechanical knowledge isn't strictly mandatory. The manual is reasonably thorough, but perseverance and a willingness to learn are crucial .
3. **Are there alternative resources available?** Yes, groups dedicated to classic Harley-Davidsons can provide valuable support and supplementary information .
4. **How detailed are the diagrams and illustrations?** The diagrams and illustrations are typically very detailed , making the procedures simple to understand .
5. **Can I use this manual for other Electra Glide models outside the 1959-1969 range?** No, the manual is unique to Electra Glides produced between 1959 and 1969. Significant design changes were introduced in subsequent years , making this manual inapplicable .

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