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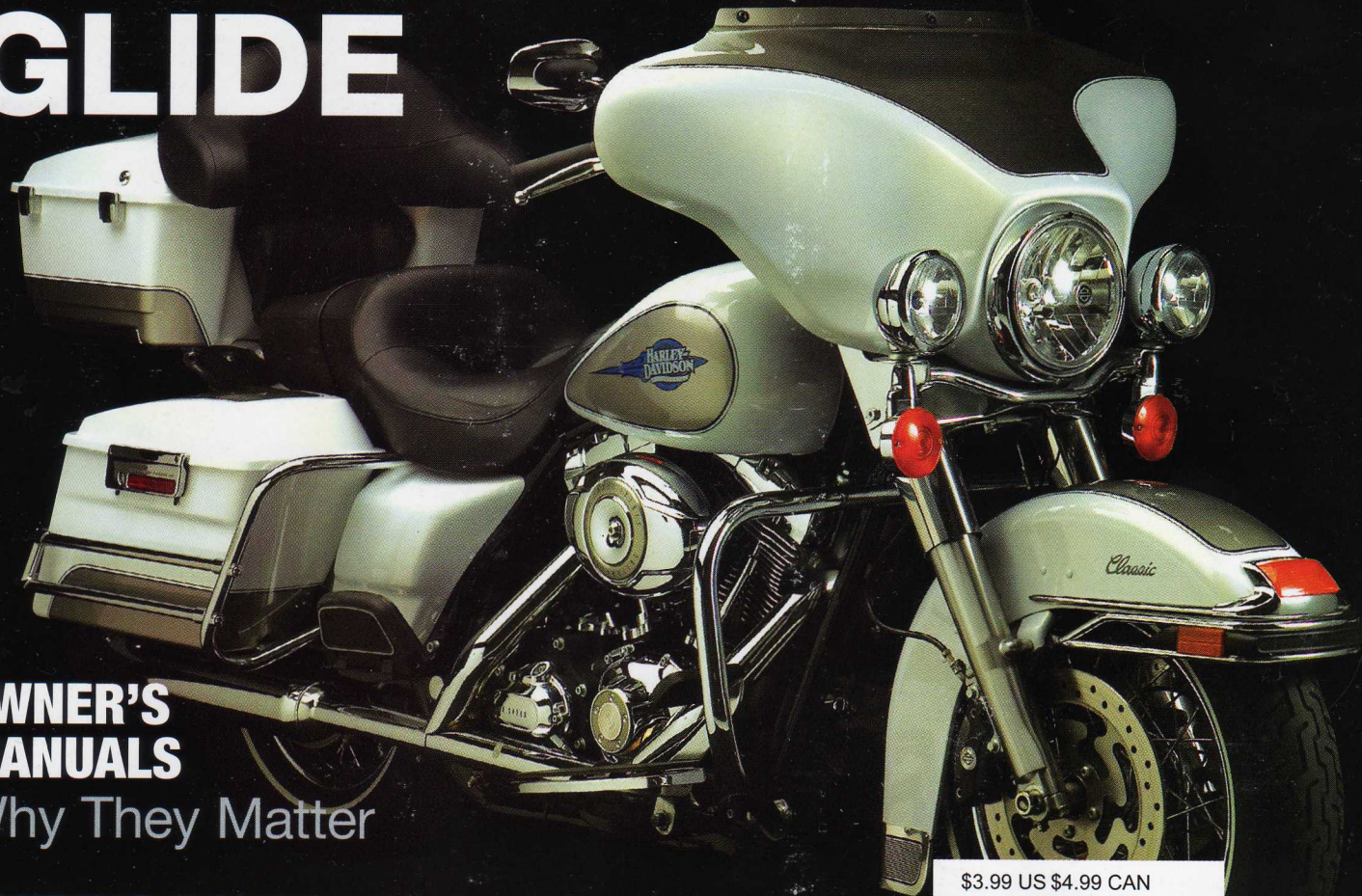
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MODULAR SOLUTIONS

Dowco Iron Rider Luggage System

review and photography by Buzz Buzzelli

There are some awesome sissy-bar-mounted luggage systems available for Harley-Davidson motorcycles these days. Most are giant storage bags that hold a week's worth of gear, while others are modular, consisting of a group of smaller bags that can be conveniently lashed together.

I have used those large one-bag options for travel, and found a couple of disadvantages. One, the gear can be hard to access when it's all compressed in one big bag. Two, the bag can be very heavy and awkward to carry. And three, it can be just too big for those shorter trips that don't require a huge cavernous bag. On the other hand, a modular system allows you to use just the right-sized bag, or bags, for the trip. Dowco's Iron Rider luggage system is modular, and that's where this system excels.

The Dowco Iron Rider system consists of five different bags: the Main Bag (MLS-MB) is the largest with almost 2.0 cubic feet of storage space; the Overnight Bag (MLS-OB) holds about 1.0 cubic feet; the Roll Bag (MLS-RB) holds a modest 0.5 cubic feet; the Garment Bag (MLS-GB) is designed to keep clothes unruffled; and finally the Commuter Briefcase (MLS-CB) performs as a briefcase for standard-sized laptops and other business-like material. For the kind of travel I do (not needing a garment or computer bag), I selected the Main and Overnight models.

The bags are constructed of 1680 polyester with rigid ABS reinforcement to help hold their shape. A rubber diamond-plate base resists movement while rolling down the road. Stress points have riveted fasteners, and the zippers have pulls with extenders that help you get a grip on them. Each piece has a detachable carrying handle and an additional detachable shoulder strap. A rain cover is included with the three units I tested, but curiously the garment and computer bag do not include a rain cover.

I used the Overnight Bag the most (part number 50126-00, MSRP \$69.95), whether around town or on an overnight trip. It's large enough to hold a minimal amount of clothes for a weekend trip, pick up a few groceries, or stash a half-head helmet, yet it's small enough that



The Iron Rider system offers flexible and adequate storage for any travel situation.

