

TECH TIPS

Hand Guards

For All Conditions

By The Slicer

Back when Larry Roeseler was a youngster, hand guards consisted of two plastic milk jug containers cut up and duct taped to the handlebars. Wait a minute, when LR was a youngster they didn't have plastic jugs, they were glass milk containers! O! Larry has been around and so have

different versions of hand guards, from the initial to the aftermarket developments of today, these products are all directed to protecting your hands as well as preventing a mechanical failure.

What has changed from years past are what you find them applied to today. When LR was winning Baja events, the guards were used to prevent injury by cactus and other foreign objects we would encounter at high speeds. While riding in the challenging conditions of many ISDT's, LR could rely on the guards to keep mud off his gloves, grips and levers and keep his hands warm on those cold morning



starts or wet conditions. So whether it was rocks, mud, rain or even snow, a rider could depend on hand guards. The only problems the early models endured were bulkiness and the fact they had a tendency to fall off during the course of the event.

Today you will find Acerbis hand guards on many factory race bikes. They are not just used by off-roaders or in muddy conditions; many riders have insisted on making them a standard item on their bike. It's not surprising to look at the starting line of a Supercross race and see riders with hand guards when the

track conditions are perfect. So what gives, you ask. Well, riders enjoy the extra comfort the guards provide, both for protection of their hands, but also for preventive measures.

These days hand guards are made for just about any type of lever. Installation has been improved over the duct tape days, but many times we still see problems arise from improper installation. This continues to lead to riding frustrations or even a DNF. For more information on a set of hand guards for your scooter, check out the Acerbis website at www.acerbis.com.