

# TECH TIPS

## Selecting The Correct Handlebar

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There are so many options for handlebars that it can be confusing what bend is right for you. Do you use the stock bend? The Stewart bend? Lusk bend? What's the difference anyway? These are all great questions, and here is how you can develop an idea of what you need. Ask your self these two questions.

### 1. Do you ride with your elbows up or down?

If your elbows are up, you need a bend that is straighter. A by-product of having your elbows up is that your wrists also turn which flatten out and straighten your hands. A straighter bend will "snap right in" to your position better than a bend with more sweep. For this style of riding a 971 bend would be great. If your elbows are down, you need a bar with more sweep. If your elbows are down, your hands tend to angle back more, and they are also in a lower position. Perhaps a 966 bend or even a 790 bend will work best. (A 790 is a 966 bend with 7mm removed from the height).

### 2. Do you stand up a lot? Or do you sit most of the time?

If you stand, go for the taller/straighter bend (971 or 983). If you sit, a lower bend with more sweep will better suit your needs (966 or 790).

Minicycle riders now can have the same options as the big bikes. Renthal now has a 784 bend (which is a mini version of the 971 bend) as well as a 783 bend (which is a mini version of our 966 bend). Using these bars while you're on the 65's and 85's will help ease your transition onto the big bikes. Once you decide to get a KX125, you'll feel right at home.

Currently, the original handlebar bends that are coming on the stock bikes are being geared towards racers. For example, the 2003 KX125 and KX250 come with a bend that is similar to the Renthal 983 bend. The 983 bend is a tall/straight bar that best suits an aggressive riding position. It is similar to the 971 bend. The difference is that the 971 bend is a little bit taller than the 983.

### What's the difference between aluminum bars and steel bars?

For starters, Aluminum is one third the weight of a steel bar. Aluminum also has 300% more flex than a standard steel bar (this really helps at the end of the motos when fatigue is a huge factor.)

Of course, every rider is different, but these two basic questions will get you pointed in the right direction. Once you know where you should be, there are numerous options to choose from. If you use the 971 or the 966 as a starting point, you will soon find how much difference a handlebar bend can make. It's a true trial and error scenario. Finding the right bend will help your body feel more comfortable on the bike. This will result in better control, more endurance, and more energy at the end of the moto.

For more information, contact Renthal America at 877-736-8425 or on the web at...

<http://www.renthalamerica.com>



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