

# The Upper Half of the Motorcycle

On the Unity of Rider and Machine

**Bernt Spiegel**  
(English translation by Meredith Hassall)

Due to the popularity of Bernt Spiegel's *The Upper Half of the Motorcycle* in its original German, leading to multiple editions and printings, the book has been translated into English to bring its provocative message to a wider audience.

Spiegel's metaphor considers the rider and the motorcycle as a single unit—the rider being the upper half. Taking a multidisciplinary approach, Spiegel draws on anthropology, psychology, biology, physics, and other disciplines to analyze the theory and function of the man-machine unit. Motorcycle riding is seen as a serendipitous junction where people have created machines for personal transport and then become so adept at using them that the machine becomes like an artificial limb—part of the rider himself. The ultimate goal for riders is the integration of the man-machine interface and skill development to the point of virtuosity.

Spiegel considers the various aspects of motorcycle riding that must be understood, practiced, and mastered before virtuosity can be attained.

Many anecdotes, supplementary material, and in-depth treatment of specialized topics is contained in sidebars and footnotes to keep the main text as straightforward as possible. Numerous diagrams and photographs illustrate the book's principles.

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## The Author

A behavioral psychologist and university professor, Bernt Spiegel is the senior instructor of *Motorrad* magazine's Perfection Training program at Nürburgring. A description of his riding in *Cycle World* stated, "Bernt Spiegel... rode a wonderful Bimota, fast and with an almost ethereal liveness," suggesting that he presents an example of what he teaches.

## The Upper Half of the Motorcycle



on the unity of rider and machine

Bernt Spiegel

To download an electronic image of the cover, please go to our website, click on Book Publishing, and then Front Cover Gallery.

## Key Selling Points

- English translation of one of the most popular German motorcycle books
- This thoughtful analysis of motorcycle riding raises skill development to an art
- Spiegel's alternative view of motorcycle skills development

## Book Data

**Title:** The Upper Half of the Motorcycle  
**ISBN:** 978-1-884313-75-2  
**Author:** Bernt Spiegel  
**Binding:** Softbound  
**Format:** 8.25 x 10.5 inches  
**Pages:** 160  
**Art:** 85 color photos and illustrations  
**Price:** \$24.95  
**Ship Date:** July 15, 2008  
**Publication Date:** September 1, 2008  
**WHP Product Code:** UHM



**Whitehorse Press** publishers of travel, technical, and how-to books for motorcycling enthusiasts

107 East Conway Road ■ Center Conway, New Hampshire 03813-4012 ■ Phone: 800-531-1133 ■ 603-356-6556 ■ fax: 603-356-6590