



Posted by Ray Pierce, TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program

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## Training Motorcycles

Good Day,

I would like to know if you have any experience with non-Japanese training bikes. If so could you provide:

- \* What brand/s
- \* What was your experience
- \* Would you purchase them again
- \* Why/why not
- \* How recent was your experience

Thank you in advance!

### VIRGINIA

Hi Ray, we have not used any other the Japanese bikes.

~ Bruce Biondo

### MARYLAND

Ray, Not in the Free State.

~Philip Sause

### VERMONT

Not in Vermont.

~ Paul A. Graves

### MISSOURI

We (the Missouri "we", not the Royal We) have used the Buell Blast in the past, and will likely get a couple of 500 Streets in the next year or two. The Blasts served their purpose but were never, ever the Coach's first choice to pull from the shed. We'll not purchase any again, even with the "fire sale" prices they're about to be available as H-D punts them to make room for the new fleet. The TU-250 remains our training bike of choice so any funds I have for new rigs will go to those first.

**~ Michael Davis**

**RHODE ISLAND**

Not in RI

**~Anthony F. Ricci**

**TENNESSEE**

We had a Site coordinator that took three bikes manufactured in I believe China. In any case it was a failed experiment. Didn't hold up well at all and all are now parked. This was about four or five years ago. Other than that and Riders Edge and their Buells everything else is the normal Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha etc.

**~John Milliken**

**MICHIGAN**

To add to this question, has anyone requested a "Buy America" waiver to purchase motorcycles not manufactured in the U.S.?

**~Chad Teachout**

**MARYLAND**

Chad,

Yes. We wanted to purchase two Suz TU250's to convert to trike using safety funds. Our request was denied, or tied up in red tape.

**~Philip Sause**

**GEORGIA**

Morning, Chad,

I did not run into a "Buy America" issue when purchasing new bikes. I did, however, run afoul of the Purchasing Department when attempting to secure a variety of motorcycles. I like an assortment of training bikes available so students have an opportunity to try different styles. But buying a combination of Honda, Yamaha, and Suzuki, or buying a bike model that did not match the last purchase order, needed some modifications to the justifications. Their argument was that if I already was using Honda CB125TTs' why would I want to buy Suzuki TU-250s' and if I wanted TU-250s' why would I want Yamaha TWs'.

**~Jim Kelly**

**MARYLAND**

Jim,

When the Maryland Program had its assessment at the end of 2006 one of the recommendations was that we have a variety of bikes available. We tried that and it was not successful. What happened was that if a participant did not get the bike they wanted and failed then that was the reason they failed. In

our program we use Honda Rebels, Nighthawks, Suzuki GZ's and TU's and Yamaha 250's (not sure of model). The only bikes that get mixed in a class are the Rebels and Hawks. The Rebels are for use by the vertically challenged.

**~Philip Sause**