



Tarmac: Horeshot devices offer no benefit on concrete starting pads. In fact, they are a detriment.

HOLESHOT DEVICES ON QUIKRETE

Dear MXA,

Do horeshot devices work on concrete as well as dirt? My friend says its awesome on concrete starts, yet I say it doesn't do anything on concrete.

You are correct. A horeshot device holds the front end down, which keeps the front end from wheeling. This is beneficial on dirt. On concrete, the danger is not wheeling, but spinning the rear tire. When you pull the front end down, you lighten the load on the rear tire—thus increasing the possibility of wheelspin.



Local rules: Can you pass on a yellow? It depends on where you are. Many local tracks ban passing, but the AMA doesn't.

WEAR A YELLOW RIBBON

Dear MXA,

Is it legal to pass another rider when the yellow flag is waving?

It depends. In AMA Pro racing, passing is allowed when the yellow flag is out. In road racing, passing is not allowed during a waving yellow flag, as opposed to a stationary yellow flag. But in motocross, no such distinction is made. Be forewarned that most local tracks do not allow passing at the site of a yellow flag. The penalty is normally one lap.



Pump slump: The AMA's stupid unleaded gas rule was just that—stupid. The only riders actually complying with the rule are factory riders.

AMA UNLEADED GAS FARCE

Dear MXA,

There was a lot of preseason hand-wringing about the AMA's unleaded gas rule for the 2004 season, but I haven't heard anyone complain since the season started. Was it much ado about nothing?

No, it wasn't. The AMA's unleaded rule was stupid and unnecessary. It unnecessarily hindered two-strokes while rewarding four-strokes and increased the financial burden on riders who wanted to comply with the rule (and still make horsepower). The AMA gas rule was a political move cooked up by Clear Channel and the AMA to make-nice with the FIM. The outshoot? At the Dallas Supercross, Chad Reed, David Vuillemin and Tyson Hadsell were penalized 25 points for illegal gas. Yamaha claims that the gas was legal. The AMA says it wasn't. All we know for sure is that Hadsell owes the AMA seven points (he didn't have 25 points to give back).



Mega: There are no arguments. The greatest Open class motocross bike ever built was the 1981 Maico 490.

THE GREATEST MAICO

Dear MXA,

I'm looking for an early eighties Maico to race in vintage racing. Which year was the best?

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the 1981 Maico 490 is, was and ever more shall be the greatest Open bike ever made. The 1980 banana frame was an acquired taste, and the 1982 single-shocker was disaster-prone.