



## Women's motorcycle gear expert appears at I-X Center

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By

It doesn't matter how well the gloves fit into your pocket or how cool you look wearing them while doing a high five. The protective gloves that you wear while riding a motorcycle must fit correctly to properly control the hand brake and clutch.

Many women buy gloves that are too big, according to Joanne Donn, founder of GearChic.com, a website that teaches motorcycle riders and passengers about protective gear for women.

Donn is also a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Certified RiderCoach. She is a featured presenter at the Progressive International Motorcycles Shows tour and Women Ride experience at the I-X Center in Cleveland, Friday through Sunday, January 28 to 30. Gloves aren't the only problem. Donn said that women who choose casual clothing that fits well have problems when it comes to selecting all types of protective riding gear. There is more to gear than just looking good.

"A majority of women don't see the value of protective footwear," said Donn, who started riding in 2003 on a 50cc Aprilla Scarabeoa and who now rides a 2003 Suzuki SV650S.

"Besides helmets, boots are the most important thing for women. That's especially true for tiny women who may not have a lot of upper body strength. Boots really can come to play and be necessary for protection. I dropped my bike once and crashed it twice. The boots that I was wearing kept my foot from being crushed.

"Actually, women don't think that they need protective gear on the lower half of their bodies, but that part of the body is equally at risk. When women come into the store, I'll ask about protective pants. They'll just say that they don't think that they need them," said Donn.



Joanne Donn, founder of GearChic.com

Donn's website offers information about women's riding gear, including helmet selection, boot sources for women with very small feet, and jackets for larger-sized women. She also provides sources for discount off-road clothing, insert and external body armor for additional protection, and more. The motorcycle enthusiast will also soon provide information about riding apparel for women who prefer a vegan lifestyle or who do not wear leather. Donn, who first rode on two wheels during her honeymoon because her husband had a coupon for scooter rentals, will be at the Cleveland motorcycle show all three days informally speaking with show-goers and also on stage. For more information about the Progress International Motorcycle Shows Cleveland stop, visit [www.motorcycleshows.com](http://www.motorcycleshows.com) or call (800) 331-5706. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$6 for children six to 11, and free for children five and under. Family Day is Sunday, January 30, and all children 12 and under are free.

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