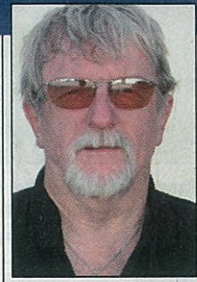




# Products that

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY REG KITTRELLE



## J&M Speakers

**There still exist Luddites** in the motorcycle community who bemoan the existence of radios on motorcycles. Bummer—may there always be a Matchless or two for them to ride. For the rest of us enlightened riders, radios on touring rigs have become a true asset. They give us weather reports, news, and musical solace when the road is endless and the scenery absent. Assuming, of course, that we can clearly hear the radio.

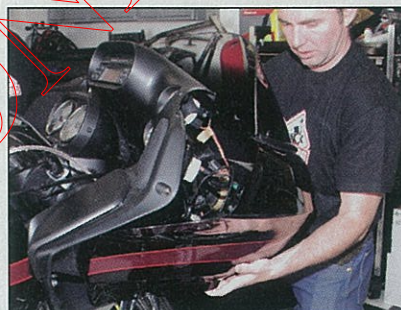
Harley-Davidson has greatly improved the sound systems on its FLs over the years but, personally, I've yet to be impressed. Around town, the sound quality rates an "okay," but as soon as ambient noise levels rise—wind, traffic, etc.—the sound lapses into a mush-mouth rendition that's more irritating than it's worth. At this point those who know me are chorusing, "But you're deaf!" Not quite, rude ones. Yes, my hearing is impaired, but my ailment might be considered a somewhat common situation with Harley's aging demographic. Does this mean I—we—are doomed to have every song sounding like a bad karaoke version of "Louie, Louie" sung by drunks?

Nope. J&M Corporation has a partial solution in their High-Performance Fairing Speaker upgrade kits for Harley-Davidson FL models. With the help of Realhog.com (a good online source for motorcycle accessories) we got a set of these speakers to install on a Road Glide. Installation is a cinch given that size, shape, mounting points and connections are all identical to the stock Harley pieces. If you have a problem it will probably be with the Road Glide's "clam shell" fairing construction. This fairing's front is secured to its back by Torx screws. The complication comes in reassembling this style fairing as it's necessary to ensure that the front gets properly hung on the internal mount and a poorly designed length of plastic beading attempts to serve as a seal.

Aesthetically, the J&Ms class up the Glide's dash with their better-looking speaker grill and non-traditional stacked, rather than separate, tweeter-over-woofer design. The presence of separate, stacked speakers that individually produce the treble sounds (tweeter) and bass sounds (woofer) help eliminate the annoying mush-mouth noise you're used to hearing from stock coaxial-type speakers. In fact, this separation of the tweet from the woof is a major factor in the speaker's ability to issue a much clearer, better defined sound in high ambient-noise situations—even to us old deaf guys. And, of course, all the bits and pieces are waterproof as befits a motorcycle speaker.

If your Harley-Davidson radio has become an important luxury on your travels these J&M speakers are a worthwhile and reasonably priced (\$109.99) upgrade. J&M offers different speaker sets for all the FLs. Just make sure you specify the year of your motorcycle, since different years require different speakers due to various radio amplifier-output specs.

For more information contact [Realhog.com](http://Realhog.com) or [Jmcorp.com](http://Jmcorp.com).



It's necessary to remove the fairing "clam shell" to install the speakers, which come with attractive covers containing tweeters.

Our AR Tested editor Reg Kittrelle has created and promoted motorcycle events and publications for 30 years, including *Thunder Press*, *BattleTrax*, *Battle2win* and various fundraisers. He began riding in 1965 and owns several Harleys and Buells.