



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

MAJESTIC 1930 500CC 1 CYL OHV



SOLD





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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Majestic ca. 1930 500 cc Chaise OHV with Bernardet sidecar

The Majestic is the brainchild of French designer Georges Roy.

Roy is born in Thuré near Chatelrault (Vienne) in 1888 and starts experimenting in the early twenties to design a motorcycle that does away with the conventional tube frame.

Roy considers a tube frame not suitable for a motorcycle because of its tendency to flex at higher speeds and break because of repetitive vibration.

A sheet metal carcass will overcome these drawbacks; a further advantage of a pressed steel chassis is a better weather protection for the engine and at the same time it will protect the rider from oil and grease. After experimenting with a prototype Roy applies for a patent in December 1926 and the "New-Motorcycle" is marketed.

The New-Motorcycle is not a commercial success, it seems Roy lacks a good sales and service organization but that doesn't stop him from designing and marketing an even more unusual motorcycle, the Majestic. In this design he takes his idea of a car on two wheels a step further, the machine gets hub-center steering via links and rods.

The Majestic is presented at the 1929 Paris Show and creates a lot of interest.

There is no rear suspension and the chassis ends in a pressed-steel rigid mounting for the rear hub. Roy himself said in an interview with Moto-Revue that was published when he was 84 that he was inspired by the Ner-a-Car.

He mentioned that from the early twenties his main business was in the knitting industry, for no more than 5 to 6 years he was fully involved with motorcycles; in 1930 he sold the Majestic production rights to the Delachanal firm, the makers of Dollar motorcycles and went back to the knitting business.

The first models had a stamped steel metal undercarriage, the Delachanal-made machines were full monocoque constructions.

Power sources were mostly 350 and 500 Chaise unit construction engines, some show machines were equipped with JAP V-twin ohv engines.

According to Roy there was a limited production between 1930 and 1933; It is said that about ten machines have survived.

A close look at the machine reveals the brilliance and originality of the concept.

As "The Vintagent" puts it: "It is "Art Deco" in its purest form.

The entire machine, barring the engine, is unique and manufactured for this purpose - only ancillaries like lights, seats, etc, were bought-in; even the hubs were custom-made, as there wasn't another hub-centre steered machine of its scale.

The Majestic aspired to be a motorcycling Grand Routier: a large, comfortable, and stylish tourer."

A Majestic was featured in the Guggenheim museum tour of "The Art of the Motorcycle" in 1998/1999.

For a road test of a Majestic link to

<http://thevintagent.blogspot.nl/2009/05/bavarian-road-test-2-majestic-new.html>

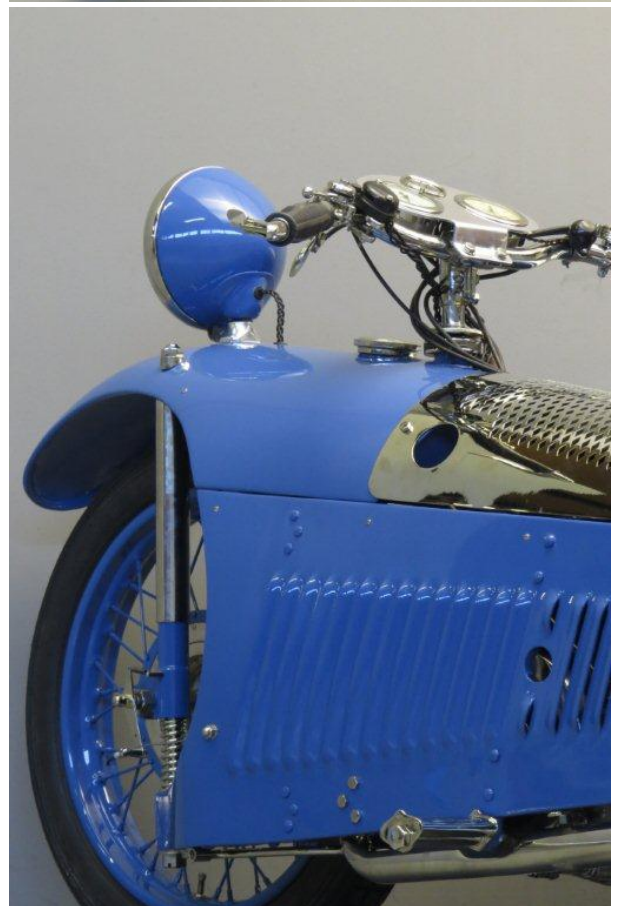
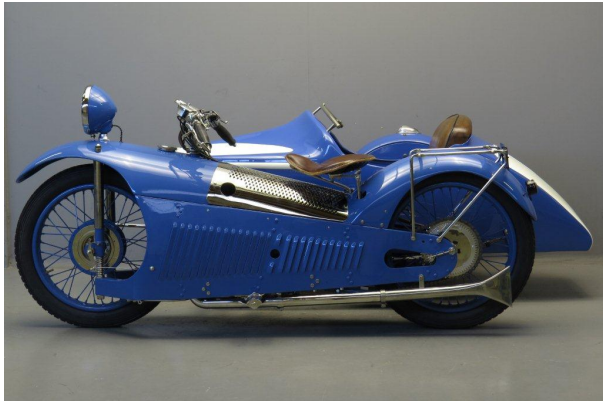


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This beautifully restored Majestic is equipped with a very stylish "Bernardet" sidecar and finished in French Racing Blue. A luxurious detail is the aluminium dashboard with O.S. clock, O.S. speedometer and Jaeger amp gauge.



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