



ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLES - ACCESSORIES AND RELATED ITEMS

TRIUMPH 1938 SPEED TWIN 498CC 2 CYL OHV 3206



SOLD





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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Triumph 1938 "Speed Twin" 498 cc OHV vertical twin frame # TF 12977 engine # 8- 5T 12977

In 1936 the Triumph Cycle Co. that has been struggling for a number of years, is taken over by Jack Sangster and renamed Triumph Engineering Co. Ltd. Edward Turner becomes the new Works Manager and he immediately starts to rationalize things: he reduces the range of machines, but retains the excellent bottom end constructions of the Page designed singles.

The "Tiger" range is introduced in September 1936 for the 1937 model year. There are three models: the 250cc T70, the 350cc T80 and the 500cc T90. Apart from the bottom ends, everything is new. There is a new, compact gearbox and a new, enclosed valve mechanism. The brakes are improved and the oil pump is given a larger capacity. The machines have compact frames and silver and blue enameled tanks with chrome panels. Attention to styling is always a strong point with Turner: the Tigers look good and they are good and this new range of machines helps Triumph back to the top. In September 1937 the range is expanded by a revolutionary new design, the "Speed Twin". The press is elated: the machine is relatively light, handles and steers excellently, is very powerful and not overpriced. And it's good looking too, in its dark red "Amaranth" color setting: the "Speed Twin" will become the first of many successful Triumph twin models. The engine delivers 28.5 HP @6000rpm at a compression ratio of 7:1. Top speed is more than 90 mph and the machine weighs 360 lbs. This elegant and sporty machine was restored in the late 1980s and has been in regular use up to some years ago. She comes with tool roll, 120 mph Smiths speedo, rear view mirror and tank top instrument panel.



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