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BMW Motorcycles



Synopsis

This is an expanded and updated edition of a popular Motorbooks title. BMW Motorcycles chronicles the history of this famous brand, a brand known for engineering excellence, a brand known for making beautiful bikes that are a joy to ride, maintain, and keep for years and years. Filled with brilliant photography by Brian J. Nelson and writing from motorcycle expert that goes beyond mere facts and figures and paints a picture of one of the world's great motorcycle manufacturers and its enduring success and commitment to quality. The new edition will include 12 entirely new pages full of photography and descriptions of the latest BMW motorcycle models.Â

Book Information

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Transportation > History

Customer Reviews

I bought this book after reading David Edward's "Cycle World" editorial column in which he called it "an excellent book." He was right--the writing is gripping. I read it from cover to cover twice. There's not as much nuts and bolts stuff in here as in some other BMW books, but that stuff bores me anyway. I really don't care what the valve timing was on a 1963 R50/2. What I do care about is the history of the bikes and of the company. I care about what it is like to ride these bikes. I care about the people who created them. That's what's in here. It makes those other books read like parts lists. And the photography is top notch. I liked this book so much that this fall I traded my Harley Softail in on a R1200GS. I've been riding Harleys since 1978, so that's saying something.

I expected another boring book about BMWs, but instead of the mind-numbing parts lists that pass

for books on the subject, this one was actually a blast to read. I even laughed out loud. The history was there, and I learned a lot I didn't know, especially about the bikes that were exported to North America, but what struck me was how entertaining the book was. I bought it because of the great photography and wasn't even expecting to read it, but once I started, I couldn't put it down. This is by far the best BMW book ever published.

Having on my shelf just about every BMW motorcycle book available on [.com] (and I did not pay the high prices currently showing for some titles, even though I bought them via [.com] vendors!), I must say, as far as quality of photographs, this is the best! Text is also very good. Some books on BMWs that are/were available are very slight - at least one of the ones I bought via is a remainder from England - a "packaged" book; part of a series on various makes of bike, with little text and photos used in several titles. Having owned a BMW (R100RT) when I lived in London, England, and now a R1100RT, I can attest to their being fine machines - bikes that deserve such a worthy book on them. I agree with the author's review that many other books on BMWs focus on the early history and concern earlier types and do not contain much on the later models. I think the author is arguably not stating the obvious reason here. This is maybe because they were written before the current "oilhead" twins were produced so understandably could not cover them, or if revised then the books were merely slightly updated after these newer types arrived on the scene so include only a chapter or so on them? This book being recently published is (obviously) as a result more timely on its coverage. As a rider of Triumphs some years ago, I'm saving up to buy the similar volume covering that historical make as well - not seen it but I'm sure it will make a fine companion to this title. A great book at a reasonable price, considering the wealth of color photos, for any motorcycle fan and especially for BMW riders.

I'm a big fan of these bikes, and there's no better history and no more entertaining of a book than this one. Holmstrom tells a "warts and all" story and Nelson glitizes it up with excellent photos. It's the kind of book you want to put out on the coffee table when you invite the fellas over for tea and monkey-wrenching in the garage...fun stuff.

This is a great read. Instead of being a book full of technical data it is a book of "people" history with limited tech data. For instance when during WWII BMW lost all of its factories due to bombings, all designs were lost for the bikes. So the story of how existing bikes were found, torn down, and duplicated to re-create BMW was fascinating. Photographs are abundant, about one every two

pages, and clear. If you own an BMW this is like riding through its history.

This book does a great job walking us through BMW Motorcycle history through both the approachable writing style and the liberal use of excellent photos. Even if you're a BMW Å bergeek, you'll still probably learn some interesting facts about the models, what got them there, which improvements were effective, and how they came about. Åœbergeek or not, you'll be coming back to this book for some fine, well-organized reading and photography for years years to come, especially during those frustrating times you're not able to be out riding. The photography has to be commented on again; it's simply that good. Great use of lighting, perspective and background. The photographer definitely knows how to frame a shot to emphasize aspects of the bike that only we motorcyclists would notice. A great gift for anyone interested in BMW motorcycles, and wants to learn more about them, from their post WWI inception, to the present. Both the writing and photography are a job well done!

This is an excellent book about BMW, the motorcycle company. Walks the reader through the BMW timeline up to the current model. Lots of great pics and quality content. My book is sitting on my coffee table right now. Friends always pick it up and look through it.

27 January 2013 I live in South Africa and since this book isn't available locally I decided to order online. The package arrived far quicker than the expected delivery date and wasn't damaged in any way. Considering shipping costs effectively double the cost of the item, I did not expect any less and I wasn't disappointed. BMW enthusiasts will love this book. It reads as a history of BMW motorcycles, starting with the R32 in 1923 and going all the way up to latest sports bikes, they're all covered here. The photographer has gone to a great deal of trouble to not only source collectors who own many of the rarer machines, but has also taken some excellent photographs. These and the informative text are well presented in this high-gloss soft cover format. Want to know the origin of the BMW logo? Do you know what GS stands for? Buy the book and find out. You won't be disappointed.

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