

What Year Is It?

From 1945 to 1974 these should match, and up to 1960 should include a year letter code. There will also be a number code for the model, and the serial number which ran from 1001 to over 300,000 over the years.

The engine number is stamped on the left-hand crankcase just below the cylinder and may include the engine dimensions, especially on the singles with the 79 x 100 mm bore and stroke. The frame number may be on the headstock, but Featherbed frames are numbered on the left-hand rear frame gusset, above the fork pivot. Normally the serial number is in a vertical line with the year and model codes above it. Commando frames are numbered on a plate riveted to the headstock. The small twins, such as the Jubilee, have their frame number stamped on the right-hand frame lug which carried the rear fork up to 1963. From then on, it went on the pillion footrest bracket.

There was some overlap of numbers from one model year, or calendar year, to the next, so the year code letter is more useful up to 1960. Therefore, the serial numbers given are approximate and relate to the year's end.

Note that there are exceptions and, thus, there is known to exist a 1946 ES2 with letter A year code, even though the model was not re-introduced until 1947.

The year code letters are :

A 1946	F 1951	L 1956
B 1947	G 1952	M 1957
C 1948	H 1953	N 1958
D 1949	J 1954	P 1959
E 1950	K 1955	R 1960

The model codes are :

2 16H	122 88
3 18	13 50
3T 500T	14 99
4 ES2	15 77 & Nomad
6 19R	16 Nomad
7 Big 4	17 Jubilee
8 16H or Big 4 plunger	18 all 650 twins
9 19S	19 Navigator
10 International 40	20 Atlas
10M Manx 40	20M3 Commando
10M2 Manx 40	(distributor)
Featherbed	20M3S Commando
11 International 30	(camshaft
11M Manx 30	points)
11M2 Manx 30	50 AMC 50
Featherbed	ES Electra
12 Model 7	ES2 AMC ES2

Suffix D indicates de luxe twin

Suffix SS indicates Sports Special twin

Suffix Q indicates quietening ramp cams (some 1947 singles)

Electra July 1963 650

Sept. 1964 6201

Aug. 1965 7961

Serial numbers for engine and frame :

1945 1001	1956 66600	1967 119760
1946 2131	1957 71360	1968 124300
1947 7756	1958 77400	1969 130000
1948 13792	1959 80488	1970 134700
1949 20701	1960 87038	1971 141700
1950 27100	1961 94500	1972 200001
1951 35560	1962 101060	1973 212278
1952 42700	1963 105000	1973 300000 (850)
1953 48900	1964 108000	1974 307311
1954 55350	1965 111650	1975 325000 (MkIII)
1955 60700	1966 115870	125001 (frame)

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Please check engine
and frame numbers!

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