

RM-125B PACKAGE RACER

CH PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS' RECIPE

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PHOTOS BY DUSHAN
AND RIK PAUL

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of "kit racers" or "package racers" that have been developed by various speed shops around the country. In the next few months, we will hopefully have tested DG Performance, E. C. Birt, LOP, FMF, A.J. Whiting and others if we can find more. We hope to eventually evaluate each and compare them—bike to bike. Stay with us as we step into the big money.)

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Suzuki's potent RM-125B wasn't on the showroom floors for half an hour before someone came out with an after-market accessory for it. Now, everything short of the frame, hubs and cases can be replaced or modified by any one

of a number of speed shops around the country.

One of these companies is CH Performance Products in Canoga Park, California. They not only offer all kinds of different bolt-on parts for a presently-owned RM, but will install any, or all of these goodies on a brand new RM-125B and save you the trouble.

This is where the term "package racer" comes from. You buy it as a package. Each part is integrally designed to function properly with the rest of the members of pieces of the package.

While cash can sometimes be saved shopping here for a pipe, there for a head, over there for a carb, etc., any good tuner will tell you to stick to



compatible parts, developed by one shop. A pipe that is built for one carb/porting design, might not work with another set up.

Stan Doerr of CH feels that this is the best approach, too. "All of our parts are compatible, both the engine kits and the suspension components." CH also has goodies for the CR-125 and many of the other current racing machines. But our interest was in the rapid-fire RM-125B.

Would all of the CH parts work effectively as a "package?" This is what we wanted to find out.

After a call to CH, they delivered a fresh "B" with enough changes to qualify it as an "Intermediate Package Racer."

Immediately obvious was the porcupine cylinder head, Arnaco LTR-1 shocks and springs, plastic lightweight translucent side and front number plates and black rims.

After closer inspection, we turned up a 520 sprocket kit utilizing the highly-touted Tsubaki chain. A very large roller chain tensioner tucked up under the swingarm replacing the rear-mounted stock unit.

Strong aluminum plates replace the sprocket guard and front motor mounts.

Besides the Arnacos on the back, the forks are kitted with the A1 Baker-CH 10 in. fork kit. The fork boots were removed and you get a good view of a full 10 inches of shiny fork tube. It looks like 18 inches!

Not easy to see, but quite noticeable during riding, are the engine mods. The barrel has been ground to CH "Pro Porting" specs. Phenolic flexible reeds replace the stock metal flappers. The reeds provide more midrange and are safer for the engine internals than the metal ones, should a reed break off.

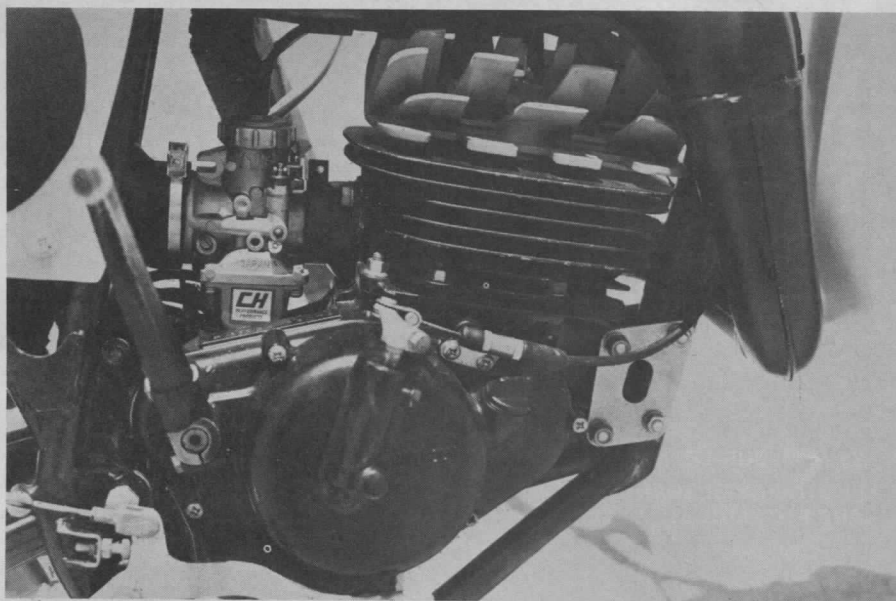
The porky head, in conjunction with a modified stock pipe, add to the porting, reeds and a special jetting in the carb. The result is a much stronger engine, throughout the rpm range.

At first we thought that the package might be peakier, but were pleasantly surprised when the CH bike consistently out-gunned our stocker regardless of starting surface. Even in deep sand the modified engine pulled stronger, sooner and longer. A Mototek ignition is partially responsible for the gain in rpm.

The only things missing on our package racer were the fork shins, fork protectors. One optional extra was added, a yellow plastic RM style tank.

RIDING IMPRESSIONS

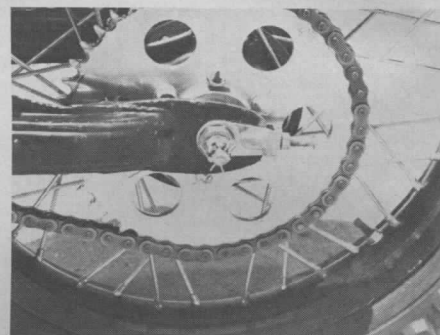
Besides the aforementioned increase in power, what other benefits could be gained from the addition/modification of parts on the RM? We set out to test the suspension and handling of the



Engine mods include special carb jetting, porky head, modified pipe, porting, reeds and Mototek ignition.



Aluminum plates replace sprocket guard and motor mounts. Plastic tank is ideal replacement for dented stockers.



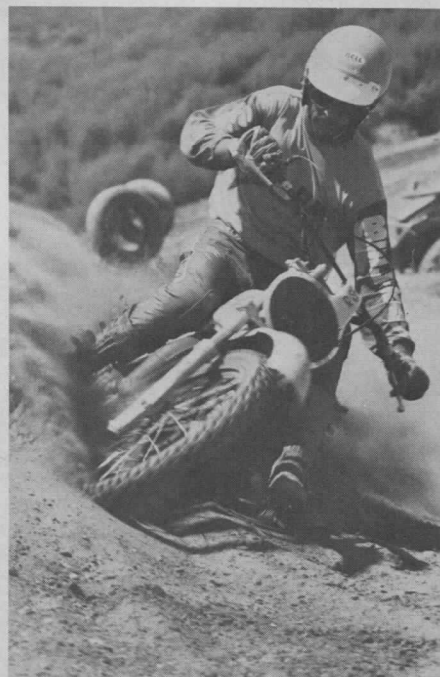
Heavy duty 520 sprocket kit is wrapped with heavy duty Tsubaki chain—the best in the business.

package against the stocker.

The increase in travel changed the handling somewhat. Most of the riders felt that the bike wouldn't turn as sharp as the stocker, but felt the increase in travel was worth that slight loss. The fork kit is plush and CH recommended pressures were spot-on.

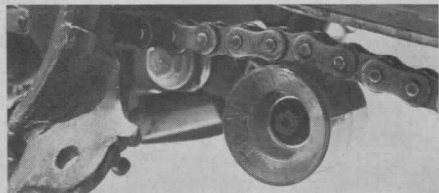
The 14.5 in. Arnacos were fitted with 90 lb. springs. Most of the test riders felt that that rate was too soft and opted for the 100 lb. spring. This change also caused the bike to turn sharper. The long Arnacos provided 10.3 in. rear travel and damping was as expected—perfect. The Arnacos are hard to beat.

In the end, the bike was improved both in power and handling, so those mods were definitely worth it. Total price of the Intermediate Package Racer is \$1595.00. The price of the bike as tested, which includes \$47.95 for the plastic tank, is approximately \$1643.00.

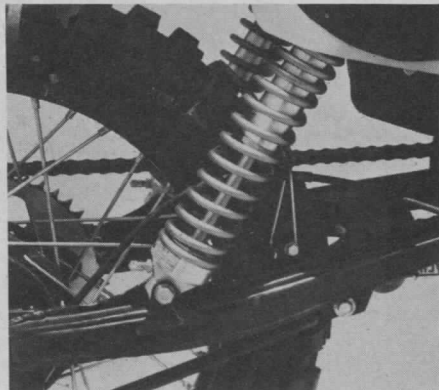




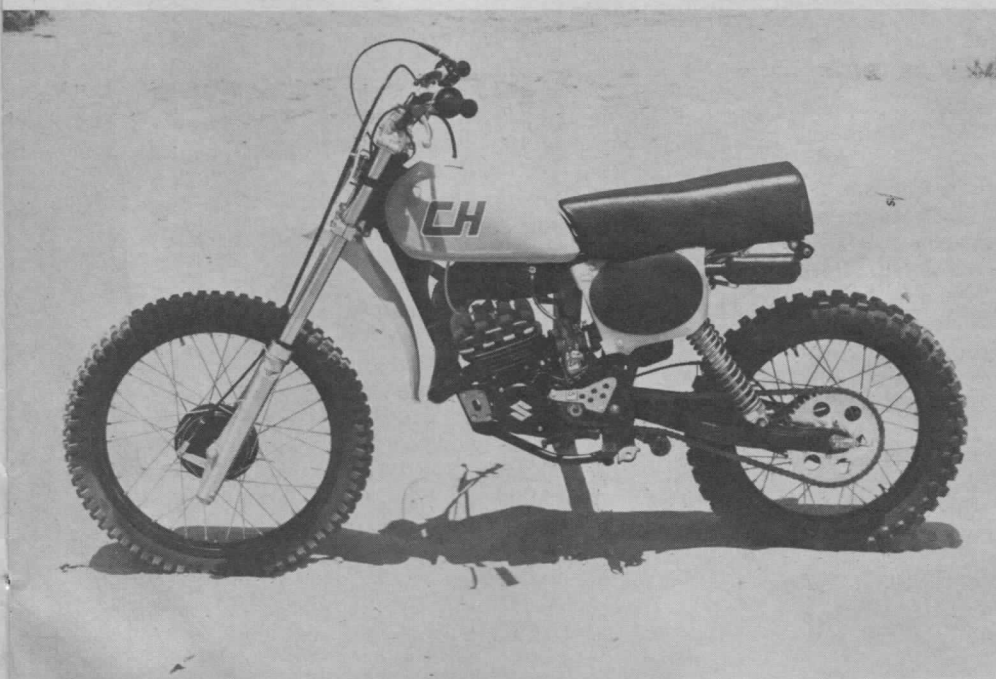
Al Baker kitted forks offer one full inch longer travel than stock.



Larger roller tensioner is bolted to rear motor mounts.



Arnacos are excellent choice—provide 10.3 inches of travel.



PRICE LIST

RM 125B INTERMEDIATE PACKAGE RACER

CH Pro Porting w/glass reeds..	90.00
Porky Head	59.95
Cut Pipe	25.00
(Pro Pipe available 79.95)	
Rejetted Carb	
Moto-Tek Ignition	54.95
Al Baker—CH Fork Kit	54.95
300x21 IRC Gripper	34.95
Chain Tensioner	27.95
CH Fork Skins	10.95
Tony D Front Fender	8.95
Chain Cover	12.95
520 Chain Kit	47.95
HD Front Spokes	21.95
Alum. Motor Mounts	10.95
CH Front Number Plates	4.95
Arnaco Gas Shocks w/Sp's ..	139.95
Work's Side Panels	19.95
Total Intermediate Package	
Racer price is	\$1595

RM 125B PRO RACER

Includes everything on Intermediate plus:

CH Swingarm w/bronze bushings	159.95
CH Pro Pipe	79.95
34 Carb	49.95
CH G.P. Tall Seat	59.95
Full price of Pro Racer	\$1945

Options

White Replica Fenders, ea.	12.95
Plastic Replica Tanks	47.95
Magura Blades	14.95
S&W Freon Shocks w/Sp's ..	94.95

For Those On A Budget

RM 125B Bolt on Engine Kit ..	189.95
(Head, 34 Carb, Works Up Pipe)	
RM 125B Pro Engine Kit	269.95
(Above with porting)	



For the faster racers, CH Performance offers the Pro Racer. It includes everything in the intermediate package plus an aluminum swingarm, CH Pro Pipe, 34mm carb and a GP tall seat. The Pro Racer weighs in at about \$1945.00 on your wallet.

If you already have an RM-125B, and are on a pretty tight budget, there are two engine kits available from CH. A bolt-on kit, that includes a head, 34mm carb and Works up pipe, sells for \$189.95. The Pro Engine kit includes the bolt-on parts plus porting. It goes for \$269.95.

Special thanks go out to Jim O'Neal Distributing, Al Baker Racing and John Miller of UFO Products for aid in development and testing the RM-125B.

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