

TRICK "TIDDLERS"

A stroll through the pits at the Valvoline 125cc United States Grand Prix

Without even attempting to do a highly technical article on state-of-the-art technology in the hotly contested 125cc World Championship series, we thought we would show you what the trickiest of the works bikes look like.

So, presented on these pages are four representative examples of that highly developed state-of-the-art 125cc motocross technology.

Pictured are Gaston Rahier's World Championship winning Suzuki; Gerard Rond's runner-up Yamaha; the ultra-trick CZ of Soviet rider Yury Khoudjakov, and the factory Honda of American Warren Reid.

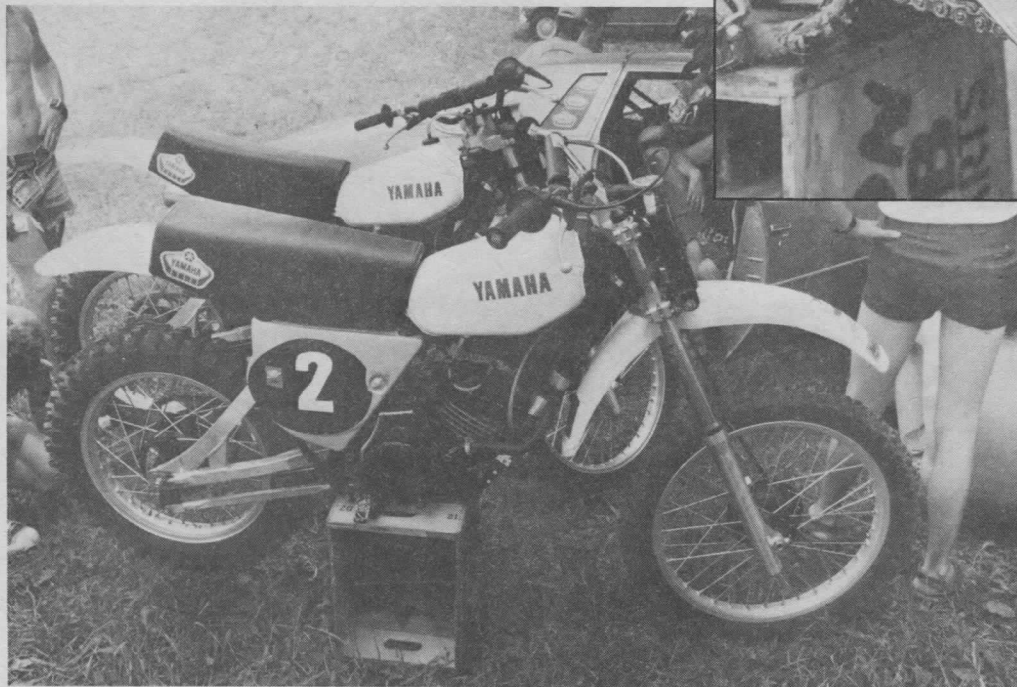


Rahier's works Suzuki is remarkably close to standard RM-125 production models. Kayaba suspension front and rear, wilder engine and much-modified seat (to fit Rahier's diminutive size) are the main points of interest. Remote reservoirs for the shocks are located on frame just in front of side number plates.



The works CZ entries, as ridden by Soviet riders Khoudjakov and Rulev, as well as Czechs Velky and Churavy, were really trick. Shocks are Corte-Crosse gas units. Carburetion is by Mikuni. Engine puts out lots of horsepower, especially for a 125. Bikes are light and handle extremely well. Don't count too much on seeing a production bike that's anything like this. At least in the near future.

The Yamaha team of Gerard Rond/Andre Massant brought some trick little bikes to Mid-Ohio. Note water cooled engine, trick swingarm assembly, very long travel forks. Also note inset photo of hydraulic chain tensioner on these bikes. Could this be a production item next year?



Warren Reid's works Honda was one of the best looking bikes in the Mid-Ohio pits. John Rosenthal built the bike (primarily). Note Moto-X Fox shocks, extreme long travel forks, "trick" tank and engine that doesn't even look like a stock Elsinore. Honda hasn't said for sure, but they have admitted to having a few tricks up their sleeve, when they introduce their full '78 model range.