

ENGINE

124cc four-stroke air-cooled single, balance shaft

POWER

10.1bhp @ 8500rpm

TORQUE

6.8lb-ft @ 7000rpm

BRAKES

Front disc Rear drum

TYRES

Front 90/90 x 17 Rear 110/80 x 17

SUSPENSION

Front telescopic fork Rear twin shocks

SEAT HEIGHT

WEIGHT

140ka

TANK CAPACITY 18 litres

COLOURS

CONTACT

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Lexmoto ZSX 125

Sharp styling and quality feel for new naked 125 from Lexmoto

or years, Chinese scooters and bikes have been based on timeexpired designs, and it's showed. Lexmoto's ZSX sweeps that aside with a new engine and much sharper styling.

According to Lexmoto, the air-cooled motor stemmed from a joint venture with Piaggio. With 10bhp, it's about midrange on power for a 125, but also has a balance shaft to smooth it out.

STYLING

The old Lexmoto Street 125 was often compared to Yamaha's YBR. The ZSX is much sharper, more 1990s/21st century than any other Chinese 125 - it brings to mind the Suzuki GSR.

EOUIPMENT

This is still a budget 125, so it's not laden with goodies, but you do get a neat digital/ analogue dash. The massive fuel tank holds 18 litres, plenty for a week's commuting. There's enough storage space under the seat for overtrousers and gloves – a topbox would ruin the lines, don't you think? The ZSX feels well put together, with solid switchgear and no rough edges.

ON THE ROAD

Ten bhp gives the ZSX slightly more power than its bargain basement compatriots, and a bit less than the higher tech (and pricier) Japanese/Italian opposition. The test bike had a hesitation at 7-8000rpm, but beyond that it revs out to the 10,000rpm redline quite happily and smoothly, thanks to the balance shaft. It's enough to give the ZSX quite pokey performance to keep up with town traffic and enough top end for dual carriageways, holding 55-65mph.

The riding position is quite upright and the seat feels hard at first, but was comfy enough over a couple of hours - it's just

annoying that the fold-up footrests don't spring back. The gearchange was sticky on the test bike, with neutral tricky to find.

On the other hand, the front disc/rear drums are plenty powerful enough for a 125, backed up by well damped forks and preload adjustable rear shocks. The pillion gets proper rests and grab rails.

Words & images: Pete Henshaw

Is the ZSX worth nearly £500 more than Lexmoto's own Street 125? If you value styling and a bit of extra performance, then definitely, it's the funkiest Chinese 125 available. For a basic commuting tool, save money and buy the Street.

