

SPEC:

Air-cooled single-cylinder 125cc

10.5bhp @ 8500rpm

7.8lb ft @ 7000rpm

BRAKES Front: disc

Rear: disc.

Front: 90/90-17

Rear: 110/90-17

Front: telescopic forks, non-adj Rear: monoshock

134kg (dry)

TANK CAPACITY 18 litres

COLOURS

Black, silver

CONTACT www.lexmoto.co.ul

Lexmoto ZSX-F 125

Lexmoto expands the ZSX family with a half fairing and USD forks.



ong associated with bargain basement 125s, Lexmoto has also done well recently with its slightly more

upmarket ZSX, with a new engine and sharper styling. Now the ZSX becomes a family, with two new variations on the same theme - the ZSX-R and ZSX-F - at \$100 more than the basic bike.

EQUIPMENT

So what do you get for your extra hundred quid? Quite a bit, as it happens. The R is the naked option, with a flyscreen and upside-down forks, while the F tested here has a half-fairing and conventional forks.

Both have a monoshock with rear disc brake, plus a stainless steel silencer (the first on a Chinese 125?). The basic ZSX is still available in twin-shock, rear drum brake form.

The ZSX's styling made it stand out from the legions of mildly updated CG125s that used to emanate from the Far East (some still do) and the new bikes build on that. A belly pan and tank extensions, plus that half-fairing, all make the bike look bigger than it really is, and the red rims shout 'look at me'. If you want flash, step this way.

The original ZSX was a sporty little job, and the F is just the same, with a

slightly lean-forward riding position that perches you on a hard seat and gives a good view of the big analogue rev counter and digital speedo. The latter, incidentally, reads in mph, so no need to squint at the tiny imperial figures on a kph speedo - hooray!

The F's sohe motor is derived from that of the Yamaha YBR, and despite not having a balance shaft, it's pretty smooth at low revs, with few vibes when you're trying hard. And it will rev, building up to 10,000-11,000rpm on the instrument (which is probably talking things up a bit), accompanied by a fruity note from that stainless exhaust. Just to add to the entertainment, red lights light up around the dial as the needle creeps up to the red zone.







ABOVE: Nice motor lurks behind a lot of sculpted plastic

ABOVE MIDDLE: Headlight combines oldschool bulb with LED running lights

ABOVE RIGHT: Ignore the conservative red line, the ZSX will wind up to over 10,000rpm

RIGHT: Topbox-ready rear rack is part of the package



WE SAY:

Flashy 125 with a sporty feel and good performance - cheaper 125s will do the commuting job just as well, but the ZSX has extra appeal.





single feeling harsh or strained. At the other end of the scale, it's flexible and quiet in town, and shouldn't put

designed to do distance (the hard commuting without filling up.

off learners. This user-friendly nature is backed up by a light clutch and slick gears, though the flip-up side stand is annoying. Befitting its sporty looks, the F handles well on its 17in wheels. The single rear shock is adjustable for pre-load, though the adjuster looks like a right pain to get to. Anyway, both the shock and non-adjustable front forks feel well damped and up to the performance. The single discs at each end certainly are, and very strong for a 125. Like other 125s, the ZSX isn't seat would put you off after an houror-so) but it does have a big 18-litre tank, which should give a full week's ZSX-F handles well Words/images: Pete Henshaw

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