

YAMAHA

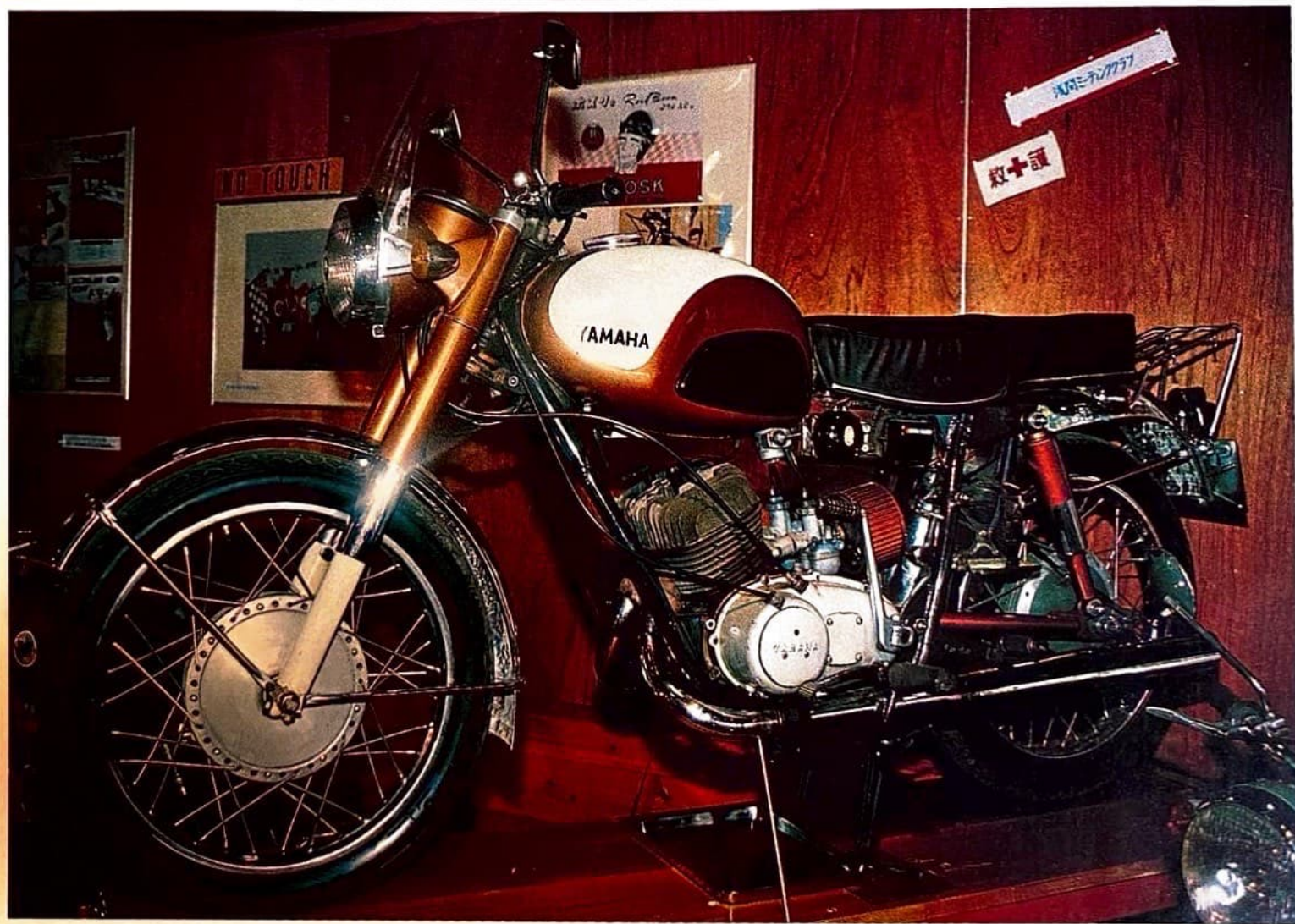
250 YDS1

HIGH PERFORMANCE



Japan

1960



YAMAHA

250 YDS1 - 1960

Symbol of growth

Yamaha's first 250, the YD1 two-stroke twin, was new for 1958 and its sleek styling won it a major design award. Moreover, its success enabled Yamaha to increase its share capital to a million dollars the following year.

Sports Derivative

A sports derivative, the 304 lb YDS, debuted in 1959: its engine had new bore and stroke dimensions and boasted 20 hp at 7500 rpm. The 1962 YDS2 gained an extra 5 hp at the same speed and an extra 38 lb! Its successor, the 1964-1967 YDS3, developed a further 3 hp (28 hp at 8000 rpm) and offered Autolube automatic engine lubrication as a bonus.

Over-the-Counter Road-Racer

Yamaha began racing its 250 in 1958, when Shirou Itou competed in the US West Coast events, finishing sixth at Catalina. In the early 1960s, Fumio Ito headed a team competing on European circuits. This resulted in the decision to build an over-the-counter road-racing version of the YDS, the TD1, that was to become a dominant force in world racing. This constantly improving 250 became the Japanese constructor's symbol. Yamaha's achievement was remarkable, considering that its design studio had been around for

less than ten years. Compared with the Honda and Suzuki models, the YDS2 offered far superior performance. This supersports bike outclassed its rival 350s and was easily comparable to a 500. It had a top speed of 90 mph and a standing-start kilometer time of less than 33 seconds with no special tuning (but accompanied by an exhaust noise that would certainly be illegal nowadays!).

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine: 246cc (56x50mm) air-cooled twin-cylinder

Power Rating: 20 hp @ 7500 rpm

Valves: two-stroke

Fuel System: two 22mm Mikuni carburetors

Transmission: 5-speed, chain final drive

Suspension: telescopic forks (front); swing arm (rear)

Brakes: twin-leading-shoe 7.9 inch drum (front); 7.9 inch drum (rear)

Wheels: 18 inch wire (front & rear)

Weight: 304 lb

Maximum Speed: 87 mph

The Yamaha YDS1 looked docile enough, but beneath its conventional appearance lurked a fiery temperament!

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