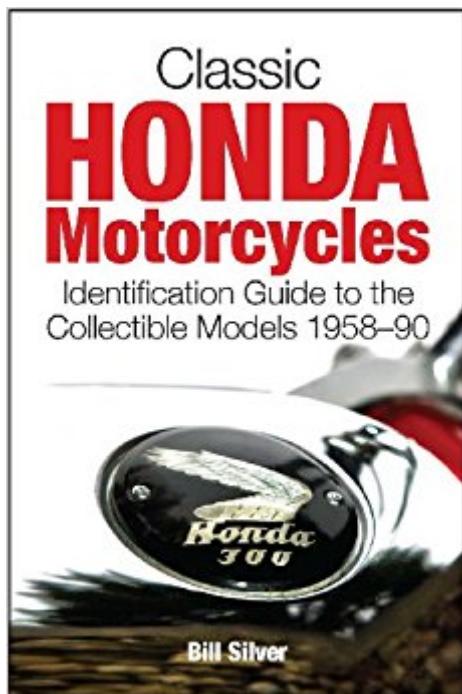


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# Classic Honda Motorcycles



## Synopsis

Honda made its mark on the motorcycle world with small, affordable bikes, and grew well beyond that to create some of the most important performance machines ever built. Today, these bikes are increasingly coveted by collectors and enthusiasts. This guide to the collectible Hondas gives prospective buyers a leg up on the current market for groundbreaking classics like the CB77 Super Hawk, CB92 Benly, Dream 300, CB750, CB 400F, as well as 1970 to 1979 models that are quickly becoming classics in their own right. Photographs of the models are accompanied by complete descriptions of specifications, components, paint codes, and serial numbers. A five-star rating system rates the bikes on collectibility, parts availability, two-up touring compatibility, reliability, and power. The author also highlights common repair and restoration needs, and looks ahead at future collectible models. This book is an updated version of the Illustrated Buyer's Guide Classic Honda Motorcycles (Dec. 2000).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bill (Mr. Honda) Silver was born in San Diego, California, and attended Sweetwater High School, where he enrolled in double sessions of Auto Shop. He was invited to be a representative of the school at the Chrysler Troubleshooting contest in 1966. His first motorcycle was a 1967 domestic version of the CL90 Scrambler. On one three-day adventure, he rode the bike 1,500 miles from sea level to over 6,000-foot elevations in late April, where the temperatures dropped to twenty degrees at night. The little 90 Scrambler perked along California's highways at 50-60 mph for hours at a time,

delivering 100 mpg consistently. This outstanding performance was the turning point for his desire to ride Hondas as his exclusive make for years to come. Learning by owning, he bought and sold over 300 vehicles (mostly Honda motorcycles) in a forty year period, gleaning design information, repair tips and bike history data, while continuing to increase his respect for Honda products, large and small. His smallest acquisitions were the P50 Little Hondas, as well as a rare domestic 1952 F Cub. The largest, to date, have been several CBX sixes. Among the rare acquisitions over the past 48 years have been a 1953 Benly J, a 1960 CB92 #24, a 1957 JC57 Benly, a 1959 CE71, a 1962 CA77 Dream, a CYP77 Police bike and a 1966 CP450 Police bike. Bills passion for Honda motorcycles led him to begin documenting the details of the 1961-67 Honda CB77 Super Hawks in 1992, followed by restoration guides for the 250-305cc Scramblers, and the CA72-77 Dreams, a few years later. In support of these models, he wrote a step-by-step engine repair manual, which included many of the details not covered in the factory shop manuals.

For the right audience, this book is a true gem. The "Buyer's Guide" part of it's title could be misleading but it is a great book for what it really does do. This is NOT a book that tells you how to buy a current Honda motorcycle from a dealer. It is also NOT a comprehensive listing/specification of every Honda model ever made. It does not replace a Clymer manual for any specific Honda model. This book's focus is for the collector/hobbyist who has a general interest in Classic Hondas (most bikes more than 10 years old). It reviews the major models, has tons of excellent B&W photographs of each model (especially the models from the late 60's and early 70's which are often treated too lightly in other books). It gives the reader an idea of what Honda made and what they might like to get involved with. It tells about what kind of commitment it takes to buy, restore, and maintain these older bikes. As a person who has collected Honda's for 30 years, I found this book to a great addition to my literature collection and a great book to recommend to people that have a broad interest in the older Hondas. While this book does give some general ratings on the older bikes and rates them overall, this books true value is its wonderful overview of Honda's, especially those from 1959 through 1985, which I have not found in this detail in any other book on the market to date. This book should be a MUST HAVE for any Honda collector.

This book in approximately 220 pps. in dimensions listed above does leave an awful lot to be desired, to wit larger and better illustrations, perhaps in color. It occurs to me that this is very much like a bird identification handbook. If you've ever tried to wrestle with a Peterson's Guide (bird id field book), you'll know what it is like to use this one. The fact is that there isn't a whole lot of helpful

information for somebody who has a raw bike or a lot of parts and wants to identify them. What the author has done is give a rundown of the various models imported to the United States accompanied by brief descriptions of what the bikes were and sometimes what were their significant factors. Unfortunately, there isn't very much detail about any of the bikes and the accompanying black and white illustrations are about the size of a matchbox so even the details noted in the descriptions aren't really identifiable. At least the book seems to cover all the models that were brought in to the USA and, crucially, it includes a large bibliography of websites, organizations, and titles that are helpful to those who are really serious about this topic. I won't lie, I bought this book because I thought it would be filled with pretty pictures. It is not. Based on the description I bought it sight unseen? Would I pick it up off a bookshelf and buy it after leafing through it? Maybe not, definitely not at full list price maybe for a sawbuck plus a fin. Four stars because I know that even with its major shortcomings, this book was a lot of work to put together.

THIS BOOK IS AN UPDATED VERSION OF ONE THAT CAME OUT ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO. IT IS EVEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED. MORE PICTURES, DETAILS AND EXPLANATION OF THE BIKES. GOOD BOOK FOR THOSE WHO LIKE THE VINTAGE SIDE OF HONDA.

Great book.

thanks

Excellent book. Very descriptive. Bill is the man.

This book is a good reference as you can find performance figures, weight, etc. on a lot of different classic motorcycles from Honda. I would have liked to see some color photos, more articles and just more beef. But it is a good reference.

This is not a 'how to restore' type book. This book looks at a huge range of classic Hondas and gives some info about them, what changed from the bikes before, what to look out for, etc. Consider it a buying guide...

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