

1953 VINCENT

BLACK SHADOW, SERIES C

The Vincent/HRD company ceased production in 1955, a victim of national and international bans, import quotas, closed markets—and its own high price tag. The Vincent remains one of the most sought-after collector motorcycles in the world.

Riding a modified alcohol-burning Vincent in 1948, American “Rollie” Free set a 156.7 mph land speed record on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Given its performance, many a Rocker dreamed of riding a Vincent!

The manufacturer is Vincent/HRD, Stevenage, UK. This late-series-C example with die-cast crankcases was originally sold in England, and is one of the last 1000cc Vincents. The motorcycle was restored a second time in 1995.

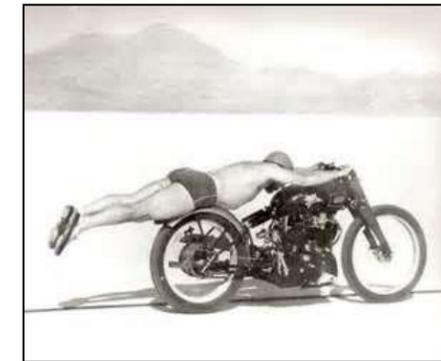


Museum Loan from: Bill Norton Family - Shillington, PA

The Vincent (evolved from the HRD company) was marketed as “The fastest standard motorcycle in the world.” Philip Vincent in 1928 purchased the rights to Howard R. Davies’ (HRD) company, and continued Davies’ passion for producing hand-built motorcycles to the highest quality and performance standards then attainable.

The massive Vincent v-twin motor’s origin is a motoring legend. Engineer Phil Irving was supposedly day-dreaming over sketches of Vincent’s 500cc single one day in 1936, when he happened to rotate a transparent tracing of a second cylinder backwards on top of a drawing of the 500 single. Overlaying the two images together at the crankpins, one of motor-cycling’s greatest creations was born. The enormous engine is also utilized as a “stressed member” of the machine, giving the motorcycle structural rigidity without the need for a lower frame.

DID YOU KNOW!



A famous photo, “Rollie” Free in swimming trunks, prone on his Vincent to minimize drag.

Specs:

Engine: 998cc pushrod OHV 50-degree V-twin
Claimed power output: 55 HP
Carburetion: (2) Amal 1 ½” remote-reservoir
Transmission: 4-speed, chain primary-drive
Wheels/tires: 3.50 x 19” (rear); 3.00 x 20” (front)
Weight (dry): approx. 440 lbs
Cost (new, US): \$3,200

This vehicle is unavailable for adoption.



