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# Moto Guzzi Le Mans

Fast, and great for cornering, but slow on gearchanges and with a seat like a plank? We caught up with ten Le Mans owners at the International Motorcycle Show at the NEC in August, to find out the truth



**Roger Blake, Kent**

**1978 850cc Mark 1**

*How long have you owned it for?* I've owned it for 10 years. I bought it in 1988. It was a bit of a project, but I've enjoyed it. I've done a lot of work on it, but it's still going strong. I've done a lot of work on it, but it's still going strong.

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**Eddie Cox, Oxfordshire**

**1984 850cc Mark 3**

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**Pete Swann, London**  
**1979 949cc Mark 1**



**Lyndon Crummins, Berks**  
**1977 850cc Mark 1**



**Tony Para, Bristol**  
**1990 1000cc Mark 5**



**Jenny Sobey, Cornwall**  
1978 850cc Mark 1

**How long have you owned it?** Eight years.

**What goes wrong?** The electrics have been rewired and a bevel box fitted.

**Maintenance?** Freeing the front engine mounting bolt is a hassle.

**Most important modification?** Raising the front forks through the yokes lowered the bike so that I can reach ground safely.

**Aren't they really uncomfortable?** Not at all, if you are not too tall.

**What's the appeal?** The looks and sound of a V-twin, and the power.



**Andy Blackham, Spain**  
1981 850cc Mark 2

**How long have you owned it?** Five years and about 30,000km.

**What goes wrong?** Electrics.

**Maintenance?** I do it myself. The oil filter is a pain because it's in the sump.

**Most important modification?** Reshim the gearbox and it's a lot better.

**Aren't they uncomfortable?** 6000km in seven days. I think that is a 'no'.

**What's the appeal?** It's got the character of a Brit bike but goes faster, for longer and goes round corners better.



**Phil Stringer,**  
1980 850cc Mark 2

**How long have you owned it?** From July 2005, 2500miles.

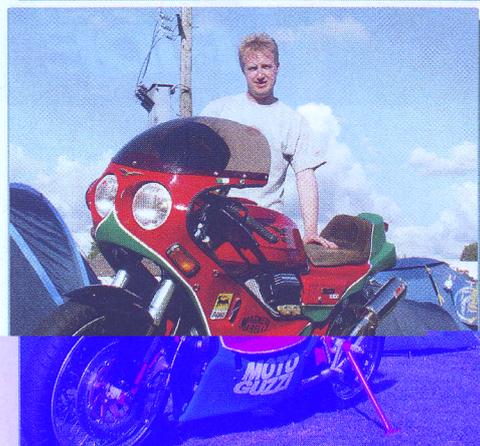
**What goes wrong?** The electrics.

**Maintenance?** It has a sump extension so I don't have trouble with the oil filter.

**Most important modification?** It has Sprint twin headlight fairing and Crossbow seat and tank unit.

**Aren't they uncomfortable?** I don't do more than a 100 miles a day, so no.

**What is the appeal?** Great handling, pulls like a train and puts a smile on my face.



**Richard Mathew, Hants**  
1990 1000cc Mark 5

**How long have you had it?** From new. 16 Years, 14,000 Miles

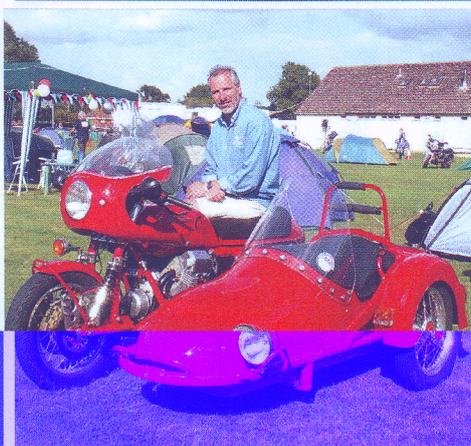
**What goes wrong?** A bearing broke on the rear shock bracket.

**Maintenance?** I've made a monoshock conversion so to change the oil filter I have to remove the rear shock absorber which is bolted to the sump extension.

**Most important modification?** New Dyna electronic ignition system and coils.

**Aren't they uncomfortable?** Not so bad.

**What's the appeal?** An Italian V twin!



**Richard Cresswell, Kent**  
70s-80s 1000cc outfit

**How long have you owned this bike?**

10 years/ 21,000 miles as an outfit.

**What goes wrong?** In this mileage, not much! One starter relay. One oil feed pipe split at the same rally the following year.

**Maintenance?** I've had 30 Guzzis. They are well-engineered and easy to live with.

**Most important modification?** Would be easier to list what's *not* modified!

**Aren't they uncomfortable?** Not really.

**What's the appeal of the Le Mans?** How useable they are. And once smitten...

## FURTHER INFO

### CONTACTS

- **Motomecca** Parts supplier. Wimborne in Dorset, 01202 823453, email: enquiries@motomeccaspares.com
- **ReBoot Guzzi Spares** Secondhand spares. English guy working in La Bourtiere, France, 0033549 09 56 68
- **Corsa Italiana**, Parts and advice. London. 0208 5407155.

- **Teo Lamers Motorrijwielën**, new and used Guzzis and parts. Holland +31 24 3711111, email: guzzi@tln.nl.
- **In Moto**, Croydon. Moto Guzzi, Aprilia, Moto Morini dealer. 0208 689 2341.
- **Moto Ecosse**, Scotland. 01292 266677, www.moto-ecosse.com.
- **Blackdragon Motor Cycles**, Yeovil, 01935 864167
- **Haywards**, Cambridge. Authorised Moto Guzzi dealer, 01223 276128.

### CLUBS

- **Moto Guzzi Club GB**. This club claims almost 3000 members Serena Powis, General Secretary; 01372 724681 Web: www.motoguzziclub.co.uk.
- **Yahoo Guzzi forum**. Sharing advice and tips on all Guzzis. http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/moto\_guzzi.