

TECHNICAL

CAFE STYLING FOR A DUCATI 860 GT

BY Edwin M. Specht

Am sending along my renewal fee; have been holding off until I got some pictures of my 860 which has been changed considerably from when I bought it new in 1975. Over 10,000 trouble free miles with only back tire replaced. (Avon 4.25-18 Road-runner)

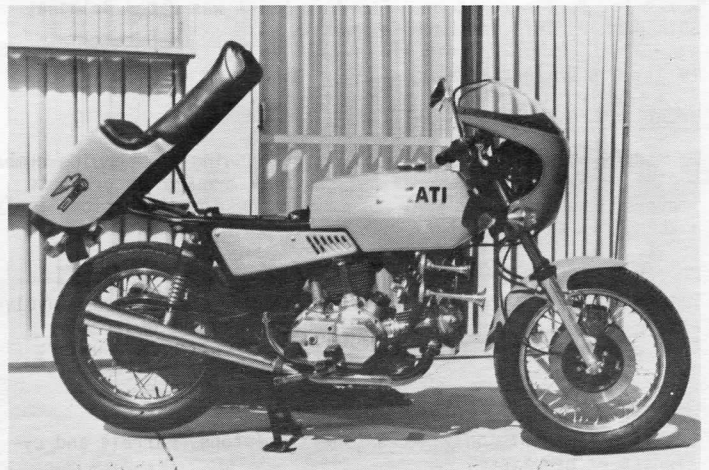
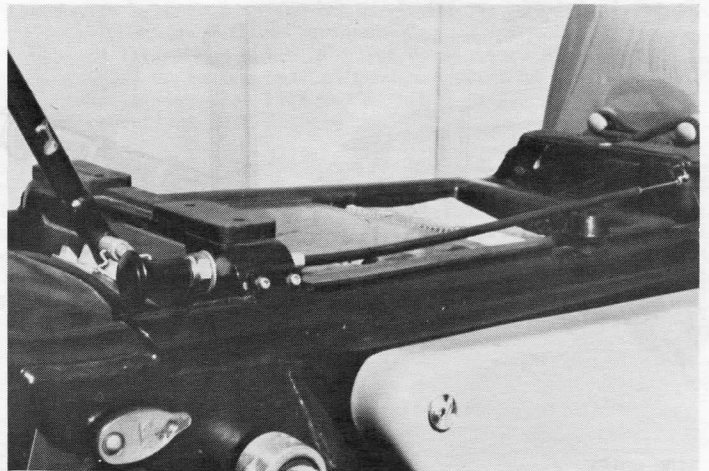
Just about all that is stock is the engine. Handlebars are Norton European, with Tomicelli matching controls (Guzzi left and Benelli Six on right.) This was done so that stock cables can be retained. BMW R-90S fairing in Daytona Orange was used as color to which bike was repainted, with Ducati on tank and Ducati bird on rear fiberglass handpainted in jet black. Side covers brazed shut and tank leaded in on sides where nameplates were formerly. Front fender is glass replica of 900 SS made in Canada. Dual front discs installed after mad search for parts in England, Canada, and Los Angeles. Conti pipes were gotten out of England before they were available here.

Rear seat is a custom made item (for Kawasaki Z-1) sold by Don Vesco Yamaha, with seat cover customized to my design. Rear unit features considerable storage, accessible through rear of seat. Tail lamp is Honda and support for rear turn signals is off a 900 SS (Canadian model, which is different signal support from U.S.). Fairing has voltmeter and ammeter installed, and a mount of my own design carries both air horns and compressor. Plastic fender under glass rear piece is Pacifico Super 2, which I understand is no longer manufactured. Fit perfectly.

Rear loop on frame had to be sawed off and supports for tilting unit were welded on. Note cross piece bolted at rear of tool box which helps support rider and help prevent glass work from cracking. Also quick release for seat at base of seat tilt support.

Although I have two other very nice bikes (Benelli Six and Yamaha 1100 Special), the Ducati is really the most fun to ride and I have had many favorable comments on its appearance. With almost \$4,000 invested, it should start to take shape!! Hope this is in time to get the Feb-March issue. Maybe you could run a picture of the bike sometime if space allows.

I am a math teacher of 26 years, and can hardly wait for retirement so that I can spend more time riding.



FOR MORE INFO ON THIS CUSTOM JOB DROP A LINE TO:

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