

BMW R1200R £8295

ROAD VALUE ★★★★★

LIVEABILITY PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

FOR Comfortable, reliable and perfect for everyday use

AGAINST A bit of an old man's bike, lacks some of the fun factor

VERDICT Solid, reliable transport for the elder statesman

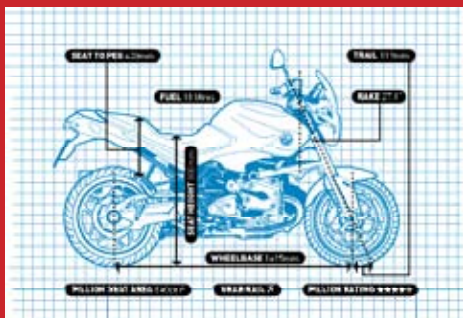
Engine 1170cc
Engine configuration air-cooled, 8-valve flat-twin
Gearbox 6-speed
Bore & stroke 101x73mm
Comp. ratio 12:1
Fueling EFI
Max power (tested) 102.2bhp@7200rpm

Max torque 83.2lb.ft@5800rpm
Chassis Tubular steel
Front suspension BMW Telelever
Rear suspension BMW Paralever, adjustable preload
Front brakes 320mm discs, 4-piston calipers

Rear brake 265mm disc, 2-piston caliper
Front tyre 120/70-17
Rear tyre 180/55-17
Claimed weight 198kg
Measured weight 230kg (wet, full tank)
Colours Grey, black
Top Speed 139.6mph
1/4 mile 11.74s@119mph
MPG/range 46/187

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

1 Old model Before the R1200R came the R1150R, which looks fairly similar. It's not a bad bike but the older 1150 engine isn't nearly as refined as the 1200, and the bike is quite heavy and cumbersome. Not a bad machine for gentle riding, but it lacks the improved handling of the R1200 range of bikes
2 ABS Is an optional extra



that will set you back £800. All-new TCS traction control will soon be an option too
3 Optional extras The range of accessories is huge, and includes a fly screen, alarm, and electronically controlled suspension to name a few

BUELL XB12R FIREBOLT £7745

ROAD VALUE ★★★★★

LIVEABILITY PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

FOR Great styling, good handling and a lovely sound. Quirky fun

AGAINST The clutch is heavy and reliability is still a slight issue

VERDICT If you like the look and fancy a Buell then give one a try

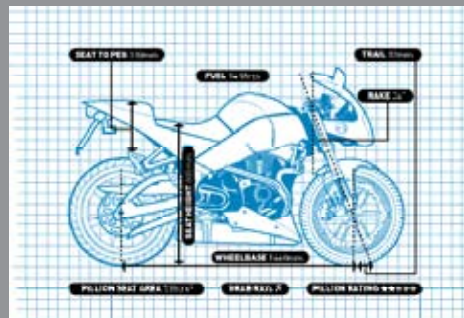
Engine 1203cc
Engine configuration Air-cooled, 8-valve V-twin
Gearbox 6-speed
Bore & stroke 88.9 x 79.38mm
Comp. ratio 10:1
Fueling EFI
Max power (tested) 87.2bhp@6600rpm

Max torque 70.1lb.ft@6200rpm
Chassis Aluminium
Front suspension USD forks, fully adjustable
Rear suspension Monoshock, fully adjustable
Front brakes 375mm disc, 6-piston caliper

Rear brake 240mm disc, 2-piston caliper
Front tyre 120/70-17
Rear tyre 180/55-17
Claimed weight 175kg
Measured weight 211kg (wet, full tank)
Colours Yellow, black
Top speed 136.7mph
1/4 mile 12.14s@116mph
MPG/range 44/120

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

1 New model Although the Buell hasn't really been updated as such there have been changes to the way the belt drive is covered. The later bikes have less plastic guarding the rear sprocket
2 Tyres Early Firebolts came with Dunlop tyres, which weren't a good match for the Buell. Swapping for Pirellis makes a world of difference to the handling



and is worth doing if you own a Buell of any model
3 XB9R There is a smaller 984cc version of the Firebolt, but the 1200 is a better buy. For a less sporty riding position try the naked XB12S Lightning

DUCATI MULTISTRADA 1100 £7750

ROAD VALUE ★★★★★

LIVEABILITY PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

FOR Fantastic fun with a stonking engine and some practicality

AGAINST The clutch is heavy and suspension could be better

VERDICT A top bike for the more adventurous tourer or B-road loon

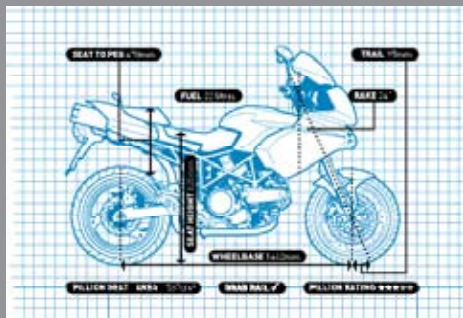
Engine 1078cc
Engine configuration air-cooled, 8-valve DOHC V-twin
Gearbox 6-speed
Bore & stroke 98 x 71.5mm
Comp. ratio 10.5:1
Fuelling EFI
Max power (tested) 83.8bhp@7600rpm

Max torque 66.5lb.ft@5600rpm
Chassis Steel tube
Front suspension 43mm Marzocchi USD fully adjustable
Rear suspension Monoshock, fully adjustable
Front brakes 320mm discs, 4-piston calipers

Rear brake 245mm disc, 2-piston caliper
Front tyre 120/70-17
Rear tyre 180/55-17
Claimed weight 196kg
Measured weight 220kg (wet, full tank)
Colours Red, black
Top speed 131.8mph
1/4 mile 12.12s@109mph
MPG/range 46/178

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

1 Old model The first Multistrada uses the older 1000cc air-cooled engine rather than the new 1100. The chassis is the same and if you don't mind missing out on a few ponies a cheap second-hand one isn't a bad buy. Spend a bit of the saving on a set of cans to release some power!
2 Extras Ducati has a range of official extras for the



'Strada. The bike is pitched towards the touring market so extras include a gel seat, panniers and an alarm
3 S version If want something trickier the S version has Öhlins suspension and trick carbon bits

HYOSUNG GT650R £3999

ROAD VALUE ★★★★★

LIVEABILITY PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

FOR Fantastic value for money, decent build quality and stylish

AGAINST The brakes on this one were weak, and resale will be poor

VERDICT A genuine contender and great value for money

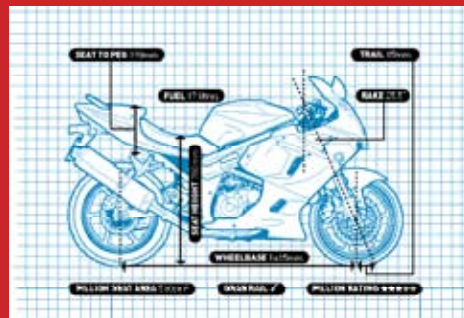
Engine 647cc
Engine configuration liquid-cooled, 8-valve DOHC V-twin
Gearbox 6-speed
Bore & stroke 81.5 x 62mm
Comp. ratio 11.4:1
Fuelling Carbs
Max power (tested) 67.2bhp@8700rpm

Max torque 44.1lb.ft@7000rpm
Chassis Steel tubular
Front suspension USD forks, adj. preload
Rear suspension Monoshock, adj. preload
Front brakes 310mm discs, 2-piston calipers
Rear brake 220mm

disc, 1-piston caliper
Front tyre 120/60-17
Rear tyre 160/60-17
Claimed weight 208kg
Measured weight 219kg (wet, full tank)
Colours Red, yellow, black grey
Top speed 130.4mph
1/4 mile 12.87s@107mph
MPG/range 38/110

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

1 Other models As well as this faired R, Hyosung also make a half-faired S version for £3899, and a naked GT650 for £3599. All bikes have identical specs and come with a two-year warranty and free delivery
2 Resale value The biggest issue for Hyosung is the resale value of the GT650. An SV650 will hold its value but the Hyosung is less



likely to be so appealing to second-hand buyers. That's something to bear in mind should you be looking to buy. If you are likely to keep the bike for a while this isn't an issue, but if you plan to update soon it could be

