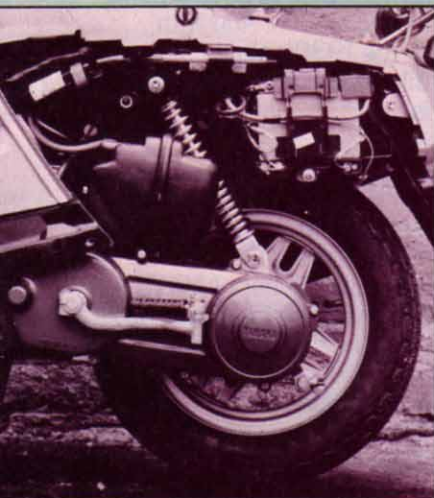


SALIENT P.O.I.N.T.S

Roger Rat up a drainpipe Atyeo finds a new way to appraise Yamaha's super scooter.

I'd been riding around town on the CA50M Salient for about a week. Enough time to get together a set of fuel consumption figures, decide upon the handling and generally make up my mind as to whether this new scoot was worth the 449



Salient's guts. The cover comes off to show the battery and air cleaner. What convenience!

samolians required for purchase. I decided it was indeed worth the outlay, and set out for work one sunny morning with the intention of writing a test saying just that.

As I'd been the virtual sole pilot of the willing Salient there was no one around to offer a second opinion. Shame this, as it's always nice to get the other point of view. Little did I know there was one awaiting me just around the corner.

I was slowed down by a Bobby directing traffic. To his right, a milling crowd of concerned citizens gaped with unbridled admiration at a lone figure that was only partially visible. The newshound in me demanded I investigate further. I parked up, elbowed my way through the throng, mumbling "press", to be confronted by a pathetic brace of cowering crims, a gleaming new Salient and a veritable vision hovering fractionally above the London pavement. It was Wonder Woman!!

I blinked. I always thought she was a character dreamed up by some Burbank boy for the small screen. How could I have been so stupid? I sidled up, flashed my credentials and a *Which Bike?* card, and asked this Crusader for Justice, Truth and The British Way of Life



Photography by Colin Schiller



Well, if you bumped into this Crusader for Justice, Truth etc, etc you'd want to stick around to pull a few words of wisdom, wouldn't you?

(she was on a month's loan) if she would "care to meet for a cuff and have some intimate Salient speak". Looking confused she held up her arms and explained that she didn't use cuffs, she preferred the smarter, silver lame sweat bands as they were more comfortable and made it easier for other law abiding road users to see her in the dark. I explained that 'cuff' was short for cuff link, which rhymes with drink and she

agreed to meet me later that evening in my local watering hole.

We met. I motioned her to a dark corner, (didn't want to frighten the locals, she was still dressed in her crime fighting gear) and started the conversation rolling by asking her, "What do you like best about the Salient?" Amazingly, just like me, she liked the versatility of the 49cc two-stroke single engine. She agreed that the

SALIENT P.O.I.N.T.S

vee-belt, variable ratio transmission was the same as Honda's Melody II Deluxe, but pointed out that the Salient was a winner thanks to a much broader power band. Wonder, (we were on first names after the second drink), spoke volumes about the Salient's push-button first-time-every-time electric starting, the thoughtful layout of switch gear and the ample comfort afforded by the single seat. We agreed on the brakes. Not grabby, progressive, she ventured. Ideal for learners.

Good looks are important too. How many crime fighters do you see on MZs? We both liked the angular lines, the ample leg room and the aerodynamic front guard. We



Another job well done.



The ultimate crime fighter's chariot.

were as one on the Salient's carrying capacity. No basket, as found on the Honda competitor, but a good size carrier at the back, with bungee hooks and a front luggage compartment that will cater for a brace of two litre bottles of cheapo plonko.

Our conversation was nearing its climax and I had to get her thoughts on performance.

I suggested that the Salient's free revving motor, its ability to climb to the 40mph top speed (on the clock) and quick throttle response in sticky situations, made it the best of the bunch in its class. She agreed, adding that great stability and fine handling made the Salient far better than anything else she had slung her Wonderful legs across.

I reported a best mpg figure of 88. She claimed a regular mid-90s return, but added that most Salient riders were not all over-weight barrel-like hacks like me. I thanked her for the kind words and let the conversation close on that note.

With that she was gone — crime waits for no one. I fired the trusty CA50M and wended my way into the drizzle, hatching a plan to scam one for a year of long term luxury. **WB?**



Plenty space for spare undies if required.

SPECIFICATION

Model	Yamaha CA50 Salient
Price inc taxes	£449
Warranty	12 mnths/unltd
Customer Contact	Mitsui Machinery Sales Ltd, Oakcroft Rd, Chessington, Surrey.

INSIDES

Engine Type	50cc 2-str single
Lubrication	Autolube injection
Max bhp	3.6bhp @ 5,500rpm
Transmission	Automatic V-belt

OUTSIDES

Fuel tank	3.8 litres
Wheelbase	44.4in (1130mm)
Seat height	27.7in (705mm)
Dry weight	127lb (58kg)
Wheel sizes	300-10
Brakes	Drum/drum
Starting	Electric

PERFORMANCE

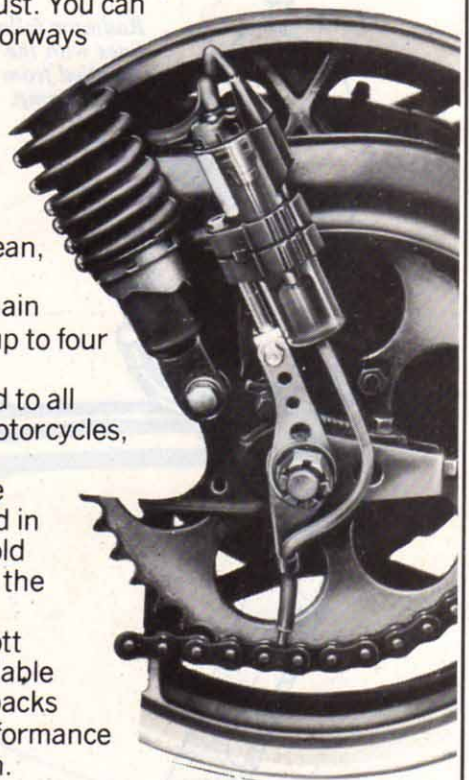
Top speed	40mph (ind)
Fuel cons	80-90mpg

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