



UNUSUAL LIGHTWEIGHT

BOND TWO-STROKE BUILT OF ALUMINIUM SHEET

ONE of the interesting stands at the last Earls Court show was that where the Bond Minicar was on view, a light three-wheeled runabout seating two and having an economical performance. Its makers, Bond Aircraft and Engineering Co. Ltd., Longridge, Lancs, have now produced a motor cycle, the Minibyke, built on highly original lines.

Main part of the framework is of sheet aluminium with pop-riveted joints. A large-section oval tube, tapering towards the rear, has riveted to its smaller end two U-shaped flanged sheets, and this structure forms the main backbone, rear mudguard, valances and rear hub mounting, the flanged sheets being welded together.

A bracket for the saddle nose is attached by bolts and nuts, as is the unusual engine cradle, which comprises a single mild steel strip bent to a wide loop and having three steel lugs welded on to carry the Villiers engine unit. Two transverse bars also welded to the cradle support the combined legshields and footboards.

Inside the main tube is a 1½-gallon fuel tank, and at the top end an aluminium steering casting is riveted. Tubular unsprung forks are fitted and the front wheel is enclosed in an aluminium housing similar to that at the rear. Large-

section low-pressure tyres provide all the springing, the tyres being 16 × 4in, fitted on wide rims that actually give a tyre width of 4½in. Wheels are of split rim disc type, and for removing a tyre, without levers, the discs are separated.

Chain adjustment relies on the springiness of the engine cradle, a screw adjustment moving the cradle backwards or forwards, and also acting as a torque member.

Weighing only 91 lb, the Minibyke is fitted with a Villiers 98-c.c. two-stroke with two-speed gear. Overall length is 66½in and wheelbase 46in.

With a cruising speed of about 35 m.p.h., it is not intended to compete with normal motor cycle performance, but is designed for clean and comfortable travel in any weather. The leg shielding and wheel housings give good protection from mud splashes and the cushioning effect of the large tyres is stated to be acceptable for normal use. Saddle height is 26½in and this component is a large soft-top model. Price in England without tax is £55.

Swiss Sales

Five hundred Sunbeam motor cycles have been sold since the end of the war by C. A. Drenowatz, of Zurich, who distributes this marque in Switzerland.

IceniCAM Information Service



www.icenicam.org.uk