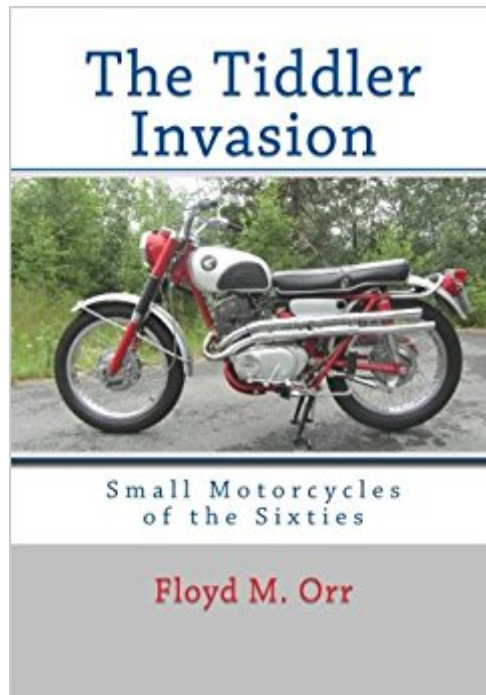




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# The Tiddler Invasion: Small Motorcycles Of The Sixties



## Synopsis

This is the book collectors, restorers, and nostalgic fans of the machines of our youth have been waiting to arrive! After years of extensive research through archives of motorcycle magazines, books, and brochures from the classic era, the founder of the seminal Tiddlerosis website has published his magnum opus on the subject. The Tiddler Invasion covers many miles of two-wheeled motorized nostalgia. Thousands of facts, figures, colors, specifications, and even original prices are packed into more than 600 detailed pages. The story of the invasion of the USA by small motorcycles and scooters in the 1955-1975 era is told with enthusiasm for these many wondrous little machines by someone who lived through that special time in our nation's history. The book includes approximately 180 charts of the popular models sold in the U.S. during the period and well over 400 B&W photos. The author and two major collectors of these special little bikes share nostalgic personal remembrances of a wondrous time past. The focus of The Tiddler Invasion is on the most common machines of the period, mostly from Japan. Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, and Suzuki each have a detailed chapter. Bridgestone, Hodaka, Tohatsu, and other early brands share a chapter. The story basically begins with the arrival of the Honda 50 in 1959 and ends with the release of the Gold Wing in 1975. The tiddler era rose to prominence in the Sixties and began its slow descent into obscurity as the Kawasaki Mach III, the Honda 750 Four, and the Kawasaki Z-1 took over the U.S. motorcycle market. The major brands from the USA are detailed in a chapter, too. This group is of course dominated by Harley-Davidson, Allstate, and Cushman, just as it was back then. There are no H-D Big Twins here, but plenty of Hummers, Toppers, Super Eagles, Mopeds and Twingles! There were countless European brands and models imported in the Sixties, but only those of significance are included. As we all know, most of the European models were either large road burners, obscure small Italian bikes and scooters, or off-road competition machines. You will not find Nortons, Guzzis, Maicos or Parillas here, but the European chapter is quite sizable nonetheless. The most difficult element to communicate to a prospective reader is the definition of the machines and parameters included in this book. The concept of The Tiddler Invasion is unique to the time and place. Although the 50cc machines began Americans' rush to motorcycle dealerships, the market rapidly expanded from that point. The smallest machines covered in the book are the true tiddlers, but these little putt-putts for kids comprised only the tip of the iceberg. Many classic 250cc sports machines such as the Ducati Diana, Harley-Davidson Sprint H, Honda Hawk, Yamaha YDS-2, Suzuki X-6, and Bultaco Metralla roar through the pages of this book! The Kawasaki Triples scream through it so much you will choke on the two-stroke smoke! The author has a thing for the Honda Scramblers, as if they were dark-haired beauties in bikinis or

something. The kings of upswept exhaust pipes and crossbrace handlebars get their own chapter. Once you have possession of this book, you will never want to give it up. The Tidder Invasion is not a coffee table book of pretty color pictures. It is a reference guide crammed to the Snuff-or-Nots with useful info for collectors and enthusiasts of small classic motorcycles. The author began collecting motorcycle brochures and magazines in 1962. Reproductions of and detailed information from these sources are included in this extensive reference guide. The author of this book is not a collector, a photographer, or a restorer. He is a super-nerd who clearly loves these classic machines. The earliest part of this book was written in 1985 on a 1959 IBM typewriter. Now with the help of modern computers, the whole, wonderful, magical story of that very special era in American history can finally be told!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Floyd M. Orr is a retiree from the financial services industry who has published seven books since 2000. He is not a prolific author. The Tiddler Invasion is the only book he will ever write about motorcycles. His books are of a unique type he calls Nonfiction in a Fictional Style. No two are from the same subject matter, yet all the author's books in the NIAFS Series share certain characteristics. Each one is firmly rooted in American Baby Boomer history, particularly the 1960s. Each contains thousands of facts and figures about the subject matter (remember the author's career background). Each book covers its subject matter with entertaining stories of nostalgia to complement the plethora of facts and figures. Every NIAFS book has been designed to be read first

cover to cover and then kept on a shelf as a continually long-term reference. Floyd M. Orr has always been a skinny little bookworm who lacks the physical traits necessary for success in competitive sports. He was born and raised in small towns in Mississippi and has lived his adult life in Texas. From the time he was handlebar high to a Harley Hummer, he has been fascinated with small motorcycles. His first access to the machines of his youth was discovered through the Sears Roebuck catalogs of the Fifties. The author's obsession was poured into concrete when his best friend got a Harley-Davidson Super 10 and his favorite cousin acquired a Honda Benly 150 in early 1960. He would soon become an avid trail rider while that new sport was in its infancy. He rode his Honda 350 from Mississippi to California in 1971. Like many young men of his generation, he was compelled to "find himself" by imitating Captain America. It was so much fun he did it TWICE to the tune of a howling Honda Scrambler!

This wonderful book covers the history of small (and large) motorcycles in America, rates bikes and provides full descriptions and specs for most street and some enduro bikes from the beginning to about 1975 (there are a few later bikes as well) . I especially like the personal stories and honest opinions of the author, who grew up closely following the evolution of these bikes and obsessively (to the readers benefit) collecting ads and brochures for them. The book is written in a non-technical style that makes it a pleasure to read. It's a book by a motorcyclist for a motorcyclist. There are many pictures, ads, and brochures. All of these are in black and white. If you're interested in street bikes of "the day", you'll like this book. Now, if you're more interested in enduro and strictly off-road bikes, as I am, this won't fully satisfy. There is a smattering of coverage of some of the more popular dirt bikes but this book is mostly for street bike enthusiasts. I didn't see any indication that this book emphasized street bikes but maybe I missed this important fact. I found the book interesting even though I've never owned a purely street ride because I happen to like reading about small motorcycles of all sorts. Perhaps this author will write a book of this ilk strictly on dirt bikes. But likely not since Mr. Orr said this huge effort was it for him on this kind of book. Rick Seiman would you please take this on? Color pictures would be wonderful, while I'm shooting for the moon!

This book needed to be written. If you grew up in the sixties, and were caught up in the Japanese motorcycle invasion of the US, you will love this book. It documents the massive amount of new and innovative machines that entered the US and challenged the European marques now defunct. The Europeans get their due as they were here first. Puch (Sears Allstate), Zundapp, Ducati and more now gone are chronicled. The details of each manufacture and their models is quite good. Worth the

price

This book covers a wide range of bikes. There are model lists for each year, photos, advertisements and sales brochures. You might need a magnifying glass to read some of the printed materials reproduced. Someone devoted to a single brand or model will probably be left wishing for deeper, more focused coverage. This is an overall reference on the broader subject, but that is a valid thing, too. The most unfortunate thing is that the photos are all black & white. It could have been a much classier and more enjoyable book if it had color photos.

This is a great source of material for someone wanting to relive the exciting time of the 60s through motorcycles. It brought back fond memories of the fastest changing decade that I have lived through. Great stories and spec. for all the motorcycles I can remember, plus many I have never heard of before now. My thanks to the author for all his hard work and headaches he must have incurred putting this tome together. I am sure this book will be near the top of my stack for years to come.

So far this is the best book about motorcycles I've read. It is well written, entertaining, and it is long enough to provide meaningful coverage of the subject matter. There's also a log of performance figures along with tables giving the costs, estimated conductivity of the bikes, and a good spectrum of pictures.

this is a great book with lots and lots of valuable information and photographs of smaller motorcycles available in the US from the 1950s onwards. Indispensable for any serious collector of smaller motorcycles.

One note of caution: I got this book for my father in-law. He liked it so much, he's now shopping for a new classic bike to buy. My mother in-law isn't pleased.

Comprehensive cover of Japanese, Was looking for info on Small Italians eg Moto Morini.

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