

REVIEW: '08 KYMCO PEOPLE S200

REVIEW BY HEIN JONKER

I never thought I'd see the day again where I'm riding a scooter and live to talk about it. If I don't say anything convincing in this review then let me say this to you at least: Every biker should have a second bike in their garage to use on a daily basis, so let it be a scooter then; yes to save fuel and have fun at the same time.

R30-R40 filled this baby and it kept on going and going and going.

The new KYMCO People S200, is a new intermediate-sized four-stroke scooter, complete with Euro styling to make it stand out in a crowd. Whether you're commuting to work or just wheeling around town, the People S200 offers plenty of comfort and power to spare. Dual rear shocks and telescopic front forks provide positive cornering and a smooth ride over obstacles from potholes to speed bumps. Dual mirrors and a large padded seat add to rider comfort, and a built-in rear luggage rack provides a place for gear.



It is a lot more versatile than a 50cc scooter while lighter and easier to handle than a 250. It tops out around 105 km/h which is fast enough for short runs around town. Underseat storage is a little shy but the front glovebox and bag hook come in handy so it will carry a reasonable amount of items. I can scoot away from a dead stop in heavy traffic without worrying about getting smashed with a slower scooter.

The People S200 serves to reinforce to me that there are light years of difference between the poor or barely acceptable quality of some scooters from mainland China and the outstanding quality coming out of Taiwan. Though mostly any scooter looks "good" on the showroom floor, closer inspection will often reveal a significant difference in quality, wait a few months, and the gap becomes obvious. Kymco offers a two-year warranty on their products. They are obviously confident in their quality and longevity.

The key word here is "fun" and that pretty much sums up my riding impressions of the People S200. Acceleration is brisk right off the line and stays brisk through the mid-range. Roll-on acceleration was especially nice in the 60km/h to 80km/h range. Handling is smooth, confidence-inspiring and quicker than I expected given the larger diameter wheels. Brakes are more than adequate especially when I tried pulling the "clutch" causing me to nose-dive ... what an adjustment.

Here comes my biggest complaint about the People S200 - the side stand is spring loaded and will SNAP back at you if the weight of the scooter is not holding it in the down position. My recommendation? Don't use it, use the centre stand.

I found the People S200 to be an outstanding combination of "around-town" nimble and a surprisingly good highway performer. With a good windscreen and a large rear trunk, this scooter would make a fine one-person light touring rig.

PRICE

R18 995.00 Incl. VAT



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