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Norton model identification with engine and frame numbers

A simple guide to identifying the year of manufacture of a Norton from the engine and frame numbers. "From 1945 to 1974 these numbers should match , and up to 1960 should include a year letter code. There will also be a number code for the model and the serial number which ran from 10001 to over 300000 over the years.

Sources:

1. "Illustrated Norton Buyer's Guide", Bacon, Roy H. (Roy Hunt), Niton Publishing. PO Box 3, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO 38 2As England, 1991. [Out of print in Australia 1999].
2. Norton Owner's Club

Post war models

Model Codes

Code	Model	Code	Model	Code	Model
1	Big 4				
2	16H	10M2	Manx 40 featherbed	17	Jubilee
3	18	11	International 30	18	all 650 twins
3T	500T	11M	Manx 30	19	Navigator
4	ES2	11M2	Manx 30 featherbed	20	Atlas
6	19R	12	Model 7	20M3	Commando (distributor)
7	Big 4	122	88	29M3S	Commando (camshaft points)
8	16H or Big 4 plunger	13	Rigid Twin & 50	50	AMC 50
9	19S	14	99	ES	Electra
10	International 40	15	77 & Nomad	ES2	AMC ES2
10M	Manx 40	16	Nomad		

Suffix D indicates de luxe twin

Suffix SS indicates Sports Special twin

Suffix Q indicates quietening ramp cams (some 1947 singles)

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Norton engine & frame numbers

Pre-war numbers Post-war with serial numbers Post-war numbers continued

Year	Number	NOC Number	YEAR	Code Letter	Number	NOC Number	Year	Number	NOC Number
1923		4200	1945		1001		1961	94500	99270
1924		7500	1946	A	2131	1001	1962	101060	99498
1925		11900	1947	B	7756	6550	1963	105000	104000
1926		27500	1948	C	13792	13350	1964	108000	108000
1927		32800	1949	D	20701	18600	1965	111650	111650
1928		36900	1950	E	27100	25000	1966	115870	115900
1929		41000	1951	F	35560	33943	1967	119760	120130
1930		45600	1952	G	42700	40320	1968	124300	124370
1931		49250	1953	H	48900	47300	1969	130000	129500
1932		51820	1954	J	55350	52800	1970	134700	134400
1933		54120	1955	K	60700	59200	1971	141700	141000 to 150500
1934		56410	1956	L	66600	64561	1972	200001	200001 to 216000
1935		59500	1957	M	71360	70095	1973 Jun		230558 (750)

1936	62800	1958	N	77400	75051	1973 Sep	212278	230571 (750)
1937	69800	1959	P	80488	79301	last 750		230935
1938	81500	1960	R	87038	84500	1973 Mar		325000 (850)
1939	87920					1973 Dec	300000 (850)	310360 (850)
1940	?					1974 Jun		316600 (850)
1941	?					1974 Dec	307311	326000 (850)
1942	?					1975 Jun	325000 (MkIII) 125001 (frame)	333000 (850)
1943	?							
1944	?							

Note: Earliest surviving factory records are for 23 November 1922 when #4200 was produced.

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Model numbers for 1920s

Source: <http://www.realclassic.co.uk/>

Code	Model
1	Big 4 633cc, 3 speed Sturmey Archer gearbox
2	490cc, 3 speed Sturmey Archer gearbox
3	Big 4, 633cc, 3 speed Sturmey Archer gearbox, secondary belt drive
4	490cc, 3 speed Sturmey Archer gearbox, secondary belt drive
5	Big 4, 633cc, 3 speed hub, secondary belt drive
6	490cc, 3 speed hub, secondary belt drive
7	Brooklands Special (B.S.), 490cc, direct drive with Phillipson pulley (optional)
8	Brookland Road Special (B.R.S.), 490cc, direct drive with Phillipson pulley (optional)
9	Tourist Trophy (T.T.), 490cc, direct drive or Phillipson pulley (optional)
10	Touring machine, direct belt drive
11	Big 4 633cc, direct belt drive touring machine
12	490cc, colonial model, 3 speed hub, belt drive
13	Big 4 633cc, colonial model, 3 speed hub, belt drive
14	Big 4 633cc, 4 speed, all chain drive
15	Big 4 633cc, 3 speed, De Luxe sidecar outfit
16H	490cc, 3 speed, chain drive, touring model
17	490cc, 3 speed, chain drive, touring colonial model
18	OHV 490cc, 3 speed, chain drive

19	OHV 588cc, 3 speed, chain drive
20	490cc, twin port exhausts, 3 speed
21	OHV 490cc, dry sump, 3 speed
24	OHV 588cc, 4 speed
25	OHV TT replica, dry sump, 3 speed
24	OHV 490cc, 4 speed
44	OHV 588cc, 4 speed

Sources: "Flat Tank Norton", George Cohen, 2006:ISBN 978-0-9553743-0-2 (www.norton.uk.com)

Big 4 article at <http://www.realclassic.co.uk/norton04030400.html>

Various Norton sales brochures

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How to pick the Year's Models

Post 1926 Best & Lloyd oil pump

1926	Eng. No. 13279 / 28146
1927	Flat tank, valve adjusters on tappets. Eng. No. 28141 / 35775
1928	Flat tank, valve adjusters on the overhead rockers. Eng. No. 35511 / 40515
1929	Long saddle tank. Eng. No. 41692 / 45599
1930	Enclosed push-rods and rockers. Eng. No. 45600 / 49000
1931	New design short saddle tank. Eng. No. 49001 / 51800
1932	Detachable wheels with bolts exposed, hand adjustable from fork shock absorber. Eng. No. 51801 / 54120
1933	Detachable wheels with bolts enclosed in hub shell. Eng. No. 54121 / 56400
1934	Rebound spring on front forks. Eng. No. 56401 / 59500
1935	Rubber-mounted handlebars. Eng. No. 59501 / 62800
1936	Shorter and thicker push-rod tubes and rounded timing case cover. Eng. No. 62801 / 69999
	Model 18: Push-rod engine; Diamond frame; bore and stroke, 79 x 100.
	Model 19: Push-rod engine; Diamond frame; bore and stroke, 92 x 113, or 79 x 100.
	Model ES2: Push-rod engine; cradle frame; bore and stroke, 79 x 100.
1937	Eng. No. 70000 / 79999
1938	Model 18: Eng. No. 81575 / 87705

Model 19: Eng. No. 82119 / 87726
Model ES2: Eng. No. 81557 / 87757

Source: Motorcycle Identification Manual (with Australian Values) Models 1927 - 1938
Additional information from sales brochures and manuals

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For further information: mailto: webmaster Last updated: 18 May 2015

