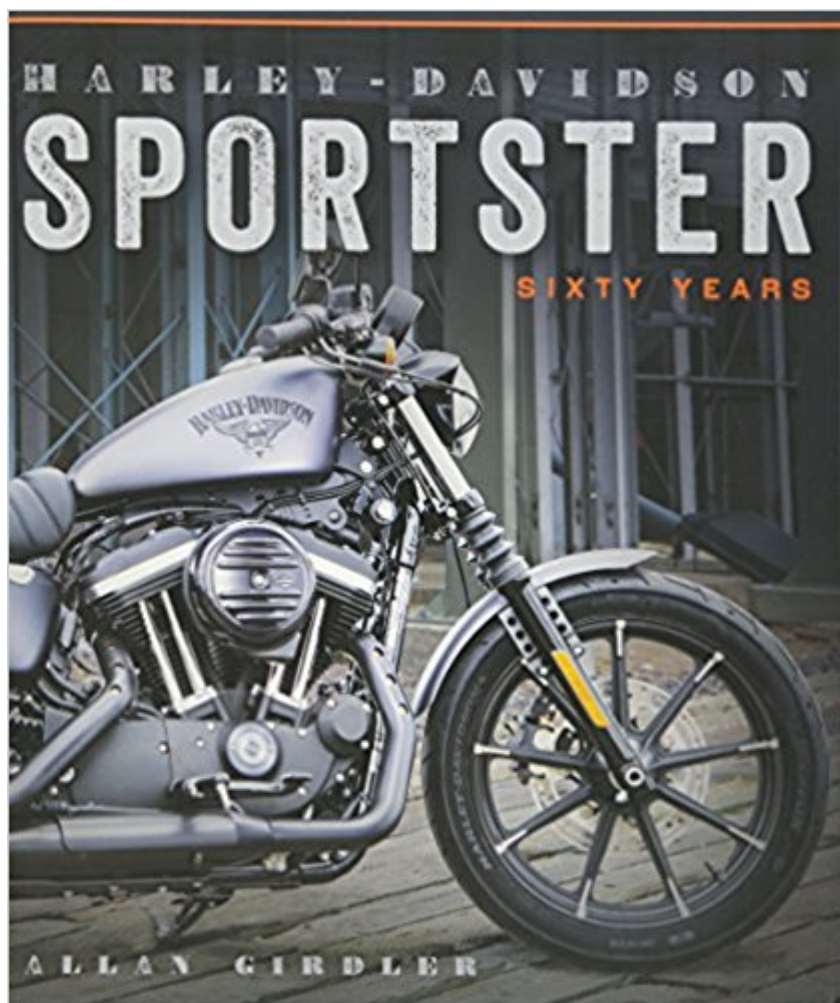


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Harley-Davidson Sportster: Sixty Years



Synopsis

Go on a 60-year ride with Harley-Davidson's Sportster Things got a little weird in the American motorcycle industry after World War II. People hungered for new motorcycles, buying just about everything manufacturers could build. But on rare occasions a manufacturer produced a machine that nobody wanted. Such was the case with the Harley-Davidson Model K. The Model K had most of the features buyers wanted in a modern machine, like hand-operated clutches, foot-operated shifters, and cool-running aluminum heads, but it lacked perhaps the most important technological upgrade: a modern overhead-valve valve-train design. The Model K retained the antiquated side-valve design because of arcane AMA racing rules written when Harley-Davidson and Indian competed head-to-head on American racetracks, but by 1952 Indian was on its last legs. This should have made the Model K a massive sales success. What nobody counted on was the British bike invasion. Thanks to their modern overhead-valve engines, the lightweight British bikes humiliated the side-valve Harleys on the track and on the street. Upgrades to the Model K didn't help; Harley finally relented and introduced a new overhead-valve middleweight for the 1957 model year. Dubbed the Sportster, it was everything the Model K was not. More importantly, it was faster than the British competition. Thus began the Sportster's sixty-year reign. Harley-Davidson Sportster: Sixty Years tells the complete Sportster story. Noted Sportster expert Allen Girdler covers all the bikes--the XLCH, Café Racer, XR1000, XLX, 883, Iron, Forty-Eight, Seventy-Two, and Nightster--that have made the Sportster one of the most iconic motorcycles on earth.

Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Motorbooks; New edition (March 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0760352186

ISBN-13: 978-0760352182

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.9 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #708,180 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Motorcycles #88 in Books > Engineering & Transportation >

Automotive > Motorcycles > History #1558 in Books > Engineering & Transportation >

Transportation > History

Customer Reviews

Allan Girdler is a well-known motorcycle and automotive journalist and former editor of Cycle World and Road and Track magazines. He has authored several books, including Harley-Davidson XR-750, The Harley-Davidson and Indian Wars, and American Road Race Specials.

This is a very thorough, informative and entertaining history of Sportsters from their inception through 1994, and a must-read for anyone who loves Sportsters. As someone who is considering buying a Sportster for his/her first Harley, however, it wasn't much help because the latest models covered were 20 years ago. Despite that, I found the book to be a fascinating read.

This is a great publication that explains everything anyone would need to know about the longest production running motorcycle that Harley-Davidson has ever put out in the past 60 years.

Great history of the HD Sportster. Really enjoyed reading this informative book.

Ride On

If you love Sportsters, like I do, you will love this book. It is well written, well illustrated, and fun to read. Not the most modern book, the most recent Sportsters are 4 years old now and not in this book by the time it was published, but nonetheless a good history.

Allan Girdler is , by far, the best Harley author. His extensive research and attention to historical detail are unequalled. Sadly, it appears this publication is - temporarily, at least - out of print.

not so good

Harley-Davidson Sportster:Sixty Years,2017 release.A great resource for me personally,I Love this book and I Love the Harley Sportster probably one of if not my favorite Harley-Davidson models.This is a great reference and overall history at the Sportster,I Love the way it is written,the photography and the overall presentation.A worthy addition to Harley rider's library or Gearhead period.I Highly recommend it!

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