



Bang For The Bucks

Lotsa Fun in a Small Package

Story by AJ Lester

The 2008 Midwest Nitro Slam may have a name reminiscent of an offshore manufacturer but take it from us, this 124cc air/oil cooled powerhouse is anything but foo-foo. The motorcycle racing fraternity has a love for small sized, fully functional, totally tricked out "pit bikes", used to take racers and crews from the starting line to the trailer. These little 50-80cc Pitsters are adorned with expensive CNC machined aluminum parts, long travel kits, loud pipes and bar risers. While the motorcycle world loves these little roosters the ATV fraternity has not (yet) embraced this idea in the same way.

You might be wondering just how much fun you can have on a 125cc ATV. This little missile has a 4-speed manual gear box and clutch that'll pull throttle wheelies when dumped - propelling adult riders to speeds near 35mph. Contributing to the 125's thrust is a chrome slip-on stubby silencer that produces a huge bark. Keep in mind, it's safe to assume this exhaust will tick off all of your neighbors and should be considered "competition use only" due to its loud exhaust notes. In the suspension department, the NSR wears ultra-cool, gold anodized piggyback front shocks with adjustable preload and a rebuildable rear shock - also preload adjustable.

While a 175-pound rider will use all the available travel it's still a blast to rip on a closed course, attacking doubles and gap

jumps up to 20 feet. The Nitro Slam comes from the factory with an adjustable front A-arm system to dial in front wheel geometry and the rear sports a custom looking large diameter axle mounted in an aluminum-bearing carrier. The carrier is adjustable to account for chain stretch. This "X Series" Midwest ATV is fully race ready with oversized front tires and smaller diameter rears giving it a taller front than rear stance.

Another premium feature on the NSR are black aluminum rims wrapped in Kingstone racing rubber. Factory installed nerf bars make riding the NSR safer and look trick with matching orange nets around the footrests. Up front is a beefy sport styled bumper ready for first turn rubbing and a matching rear bumper. Slowing the Nitro Slam down is as simple as actuating the brake levers linked to three hydraulic calipers. These brakes work impressively - even with full sized riders. It's hard to imagine a younger rider getting aboard the NSR without advanced riding skills and always under strict adult supervision. Lesser skilled riders should be aware of the potential of this ATV and treat it with respect.

Full sized adult riders can best relate a ride on the NSR 125 to the fun of go carting. Go ahead, try to resist the almost uncontrollable urge to round up some buddies and start a backyard mini-ATV-motocross. It's hard to believe this much fun is only going to set you back \$1995 CDN(\$1978 US). Try to contain yourself. 