

What's new from Honda?

ComStar™ Wheels—How they work.

The innovative and futuristic technology found in the 1978 Hondas will be covered here, in the Red Page, in the coming months. Honda feels it helps to be knowledgeable about motorcycles and motorcycle technology. Because when it comes to advancing the technology you ride, Honda is number one.

COMSTAR™ WHEELS: When Honda decided that their technically innovative machinery required an equally innovative set of wheels, they faced a problem. While regular spoke wheels exhibit a certain amount of flex which helps absorb road impact loads, they need periodic adjustment. And cast wheels, which have a sleek appearance, can be heavy. Either way seemed a compromise. And at Honda, compromise is not in the vocabulary.

So they set out to design a wheel that would capture the best of both worlds: the Honda ComStar. When they had it, they proved it—on the successful Honda endurance racers in Europe.

The production ComStar wheel is a five-spoke design using an extruded aluminum-alloy rim and ten spoke plates (aluminum spokes on the new Honda CBX). The aluminum rim is light and sturdy. The spoke plates mount onto the outer edges of the hub flange and the center line of the rim, forming five V-shaped spokes. This V-shape gives the ComStar the strength and ability to flex and absorb loads like a spoke wheel. Yet, its simpler design makes it easier to clean than a conventional wheel.

ComStar wheels are lighter than some cast aluminum wheels. They offer another benefit. Using the ComStar design, engineers can utilize thinner or heavier spoke plates and give each machine wheels designed to handle that bike's weight, power and handling characteristics. In essence, the Honda ComStar wheel can be "tuned" for a particular application.

Finally, the ComStar requires no routine spoke maintenance. And that's one less thing for you to worry about.

TUBELESS TIRES: With ComStar wheels comes another advantage. The solid aluminum rim allows Honda to use tubeless tires (on the CX-500 and CBX models). It's an industry first for production motorcycles. Tubeless tires, like those on your car, run cooler because tire/tube friction is eliminated and heat-retaining mass is reduced.

The new 1978 Hondas abound with many features like the innovative ComStar wheel and tubeless tires. And we'll be covering those other technical features later on. But for a firsthand look at advanced technology and futuristic motorcycles, see your Honda dealer today.

