

# MY BRILLIANT CARRERA

Porsche power for a different kind of four

A great many things can be powered with Porsche engines – airplanes, boats, cars and even motorcycles. Peter Hess, an instrument maker from Kiel, West Germany, devoted himself to the idea of building a husky motorcycle around the 1.6-litre, four cylinder 356 engine as used in the Porsche Super 90. That cost him some £5000, three and a half years of labour and several grey hairs.

The engine was completely disassembled and renewed by Hess. Its forced-air cooling had to be dropped. Instead Hess connected two oil coolers in a dual-circuit system and increased the oil supply from 3.5 to six litres (4 to 6.8 quarts). To ensure that the exhaust valves for the rear cylinders wouldn't overheat, they were given an additional oil bath.

Revs of this engine, with its original carburettors were limited to 4500rpm – producing 60hp, sufficient for 180km/h or 112mph. Hess estimated that if he removed the rev limiter he could increase the output to 100hp at 6500rpm and achieve 243km/h or 151mph.

This impressive pulling power of the low-revving engine is applied to the ground through a BMW shaft-drive unit. Forks are also from BMW but the frame was designed and built by Hess personally.

What's more Hess is not the only one satisfied with the result. The strict technical inspectors in Germany accepted his neat work the first time around.

Brian Chittock



