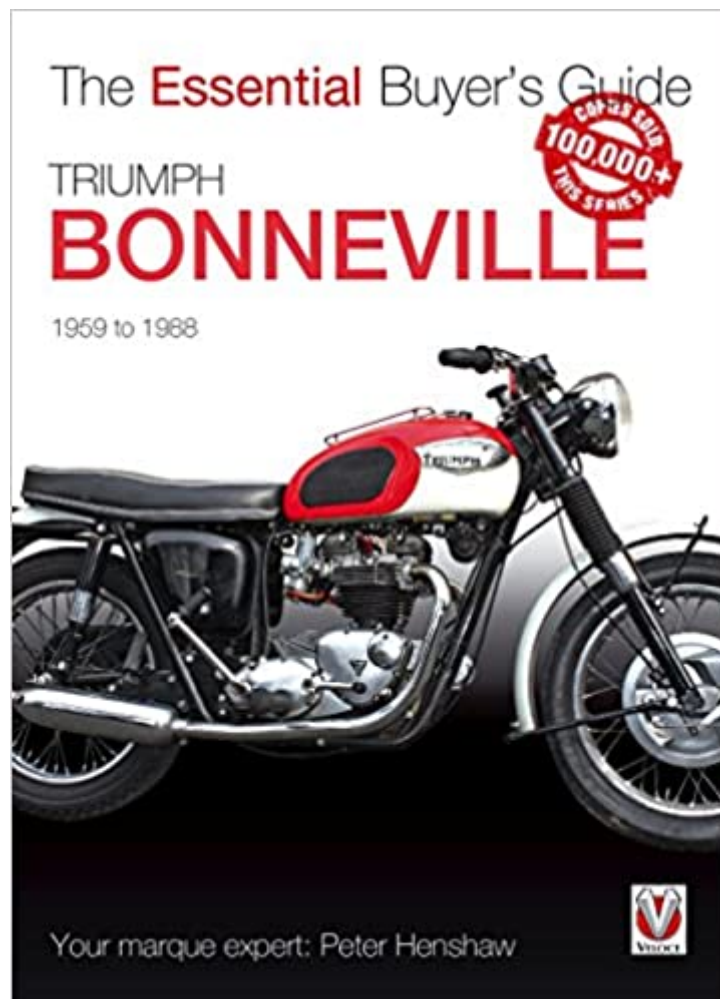




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Triumph Bonneville: The Essential Buyer's Guide



Synopsis

There are lots of books about the Triumph Bonneville, about its history, performance, lineage and the minutiae of its specification, but none of them tell you what to look for when buying one secondhand. That's what this book is about. It aims at being a straightforward, practical guide to buying a used Bonnie. It won't list all the correct color combinations for each year, or analyze the bike's design philosophy, or consider its background as part of a troubled industry. There are excellent books listed at the end of this one which do all of that. But hopefully it will help you avoid buying a dud. Point by point, it takes the reader through everything that needs looking at when buying a Bonnie, plus spares prices, which is the best model to buy for your needs, a look at auctions, restorations and paperwork. Over 29 years in production, the Bonneville is for some the definitive postwar British vertical twin, perhaps even the definitive British bike of all time, with all its strengths, weaknesses and character. Although there might seem to be a wide range of models and special editions, all are based around the same 649cc or 747cc vertical twin. There were plenty of changes over the years, but none of them changed the basic format of this classic British bike. Aside from all the history, the Bonneville remains a tremendous classic to own, so long as you're prepared to look after it. The last Bonnies truly deserve the term "practical classic." Whichever one you choose, it should be fast, agile and good looking, and on a twisty English B road, there's nothing like a Bonnie. One hundred color photos, useful appendices and expert advice mean this book could save you 1000's.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Even if you already own a Bonnie I reckon you could find it a worthwhile little book." [Mark Holman, Bike Rider](#)
Review from Classic Bike Guide, June 2008
UK magazine OK, so, you're tired of the flashy hyperbike scene and fancy something different. The retro scene and old motorcycles has started to appeal but the problem is you're completely new to old motorcycles and know nothing about them. Yes, you've seen them about and have probably even heard of a few of the makes like Triumph and BSA but beyond that ... well. What do you do to find out if the scene will suit you and what bike could be the one for you? A useful first step could well be one of 'The Essential Buyer's Guides' by Peter Henshaw and published by Veloce Publishing if you're fancying a BSA twin or a Triumph Bonneville - OK and BMW GS as well. The buyer's guides are not an in-depth look at every machine, that would be difficult in a 64-page 7 11/16in x 5 7/16in soft back book. Instead they are squarely aimed at the newcomer and advise on model changes, recognition points, pitfalls and other things to be aware of when seeking out a classic. A long time classic owner will find the information fairly run of the mill but if you're just starting out then it's all new and after reading 'The Essential Buyer's Guides' you should be able to spot a Bonnie from a T'Bird or an A7 from an RGS. "With this little book you will know everything you need to look out for when you meet what may be your next vintage Bonneville, and insure you don't end up with your next vintage nightmare." [Two Wheels](#)

Peter Henshaw has had an enthusiasm for anything with wheels from an early age ?_ " from bicycles to 500hp tractors. He was the Editor of Motorcycle Sport & Leisure for five years before going freelance, and now contributes to a whole range of transport magazines including MSL, TAG, A to B and Tractor, as well as The Telegraph. He's also written over 30 books, including 10 about bikes, and is an all-year-round motorcyclist who does not own a car.

Very good short read on Triumph motorcycles and what to look for. The author was very straight forward on what to expect when owning one of these older bikes and the issues an owner will encounter. I was looking for a nice bike to ride on the weekends or as an option to commute to work, but after reading, I'm thinking this isn't the bike for me. This \$9 probably saved me a lot of frustration. If I wanted to work on or tinker with it and then have the satisfaction I fixed it myself, then I think that's more what the author was trying to say, at least that's my interpretation. For most, this

book is probably about finding that perfect historic Triumph and it does a good job at doing that, but for me, it made me realize that I need a bike that I can just get on and go and not have turn a wrench first. It has me looking at more maintenance free options now.

Excellent and informative book.

This is a very good primer for anyone considering purchasing a Triumph Bonneville. Although written in England, the book is helpful to US and European Triumph fans alike. The author does a good job of distinguishing between the various eras of Bonneville, giving insight into the benefits and drawbacks of each type. The relatively small footprint of the book makes it easy to carry with you as you visit buyers for motorcycle evaluation. The content is organized well and the format is pleasing to the eye. What I'd like to have seen in the book is more detailed photos of the bikes, a checklist that could be replicated for use in field evaluations of the bikes and side-by-side photos of the different years of Bonneville. Again, very worth buying if you are in the market and an excellent effort, but could be better as well.

Book appears to be a quality publication. This particular example, however, was far from that. Adhesive labels had been removed, leaving blotches on both front and rear covers. This was obviously a retail shelf product that had been re-distributed. I have higher expectations from .

We saw this book reviewed in Classic Bike magazine, and were very happy to find it for sale on .It's smaller than I expected (5.5" x 8", 64 pages long), but there's lots of good information packed in a small space.The information contained is a wonderful compendium of information you'll need when purchasing (or restoring) a Bonnie. From proper paint to what's actually a 'good' deal, this book covers thing's you want to know whether you're purchasing your first vintage Triumph, or your fifth.

I think this is way overpriced for what it is. There are a few good points; but for what it costs I expected more than a 6" x 8" booklet with 64 pages!!!The only reason I still have it is it was not worth the hassle to return it!!! But it did have some nice pictures of Earlier Bikes.....It is obviously from England with English spelling and nomenclature; which for a Limey Bike I guess is a Good Thing!!! A good lesson in culture.....

Photos and narrative are super modern evaluation tools.Should be required reading for anyone

riding triumph motorcycles although it is not a lot of narrative for the price. Some things covered are common sense.

I'm looking to by a Bonneville and this was a good start in what I needed to know to include a built in check list when you go look at a bike. Considering these bikes cost as much as they do, the minimal cost of this book could possibly keep me from making a mistake costing real \$\$\$.

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