

The world's first production motorcycle

A rare example of the world's first production motorcycle, a Hildebrand & Wolfmüller, is expected to fetch up to £60,000 at auction by Bonhams. Between 1894 and 1897 fewer than 2,000 Hildebrand & Wolfmüllers were built for sale in Germany and France



HILDEBRAND & WOLFMÜLLER

Starting: No clutch – rider needs to push cycle until engine fires

Wheel arch:

Houses water tank

Front wheel brake

Air intake for igniter

Petrol tank

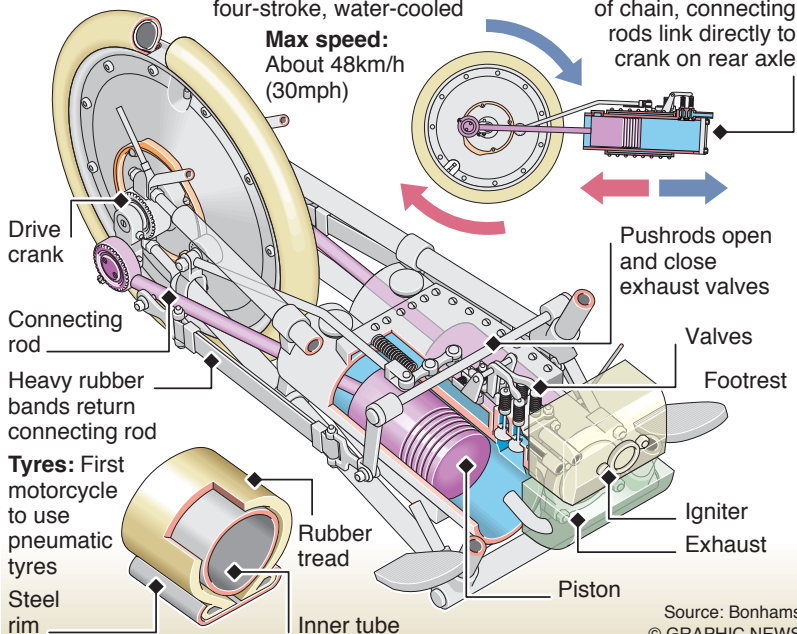
Solid disc rear wheel

Tubular frame stores oil

Engine: 1,488cc two-cylinder, four-stroke, water-cooled

Max speed:
About 48km/h (30mph)

Transmission: Instead of chain, connecting rods link directly to crank on rear axle



Drive crank

Connecting rod

Heavy rubber bands return connecting rod

Tyres: First motorcycle to use pneumatic tyres

Steel rim

Rubber tread

Inner tube

Pushrods open and close exhaust valves

Valves

Footrest

Igniter

Exhaust

Piston