

news & new products

Tested

Back in December 2008's edition of Scootering we ran an exhaust test of pipes suitable for the LML Star and Vespa PX125 scooters.

One of those tested was the SIP Performance exhaust which was also available with a down-pipe to fit the larger PX200 engine. So what with it being rude not to, and with Andy Francis offering us a left hand Franspeed exhaust for the same scooter, we continued playing...

Both the SIP Performance and Franspeed exhausts are made by JL in the Czech Republic from stainless steel. Both are left hand side pipes and look pretty similar, although the SIP exhaust is marketed as being suitable for those with wide wheel rims at the rear, so the fitting of a spare wheel under the left side panel is not possible with that. It could be possible with the Franspeed, subject to use of spacers. I say 'should' as I've come across different types of spare wheel brackets in recent times so I can't comment on all.

Both exhausts are easy to fit, coming complete with necessary brackets and springs and with a double skinned wall the tone emitted was pleasant with the essence of performance, but unlikely to annoy your neighbours that much.

The similarities continue with the performance of these exhausts too. We fitted them to my Vespa PX200E that runs a standard engine with an old Sito Plus exhaust (that sounds as old as it looks). In this form peak power is 10.29bhp at the rear wheel with a max torque of 10.08 ft-lb. As I said, a standard P2.

Fit the SIP and Franspeed exhausts however and you get a credible boost of power up with the Franspeed peaking at 11.76bhp and the SIP at 11.85bhp. On a third gear run on test the pipes offered a maximum torque of 10.43ft-lb and 10.45ft-lb respectively, while you can see from the four gears run on these graphs, the curves are almost identical (the red line being the basic Sito Plus exhaust).

Out of the workshop and I've had the SIP on my Vespa for a while now. On the road I found confirmation of the dyno results with the Performance exhaust offering just enough extra 'oomph' to pass by a few more cars on my way into town, and allowing the engine to roll on a little longer at top end. It's not a lot, but those extra revs and handful of mph can make all the difference when at the head of the traffic lights or defending your overtaking manoeuvre on a dual carriageway!

As for whether to buy the Franspeed version or SIP Performance exhaust, there is little in it from fitment to finish, performance to price. But then I suppose that was to be expected considering their origin. It could all come down to whether you have a wide rear tyre or want to try and mount a spare wheel under the panel.

Andy

Both exhausts retail from around £250 upwards depending on features such as tail pipes. They both also come with a warranty from JL that will either repair or replace a damaged exhaust, subject to conditions.

Contact SIP via www.sip-scootershop.com

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