

If Harley-Davidson made 125s they might look like the Lexmoto



FIRST RIDE

LEXMOTO MICHIGAN

'130-section rear tyre and high bars add up to a fairly plausible take on full-size'

By Peter Henshaw
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Despite its looks and name, the Lexmoto Michigan is no more American than a Full English. It's made in China, but if you have an A1 licence and like the cruiser style it could be worth a look.

The Michigan works because it's all in proportion, physically big for a 125 with a long 1435mm wheelbase, fat 130-section rear tyre and high bars, but it all adds up to a fairly plausible take on full-size.

The giveaway is the tiny 125cc single nestling underneath the tank, though even that doesn't look too ridiculous. Being mounted in a budget Chinese bike, it's carburettor-fed, air-cooled and in a low state of tune. That is brought home as soon as you fire it up, because it's whisper-quiet at idle.

Underway, it doesn't get much more raucous, the smooth and mild-mannered motor barely making itself felt. In keeping with the cruiser image, the Michigan is geared high, so it's got even less go than the average 125. It's quick enough to keep up in town, but progress on the open road is leisurely. The upside of that is that the Michigan feels quite relaxed by 125 standards, and it'll bop along at an indicated 55-60mph without buzzing its little heart out.

In true cruiser fashion, the front tyre's a skinny-ish 90/90-18 and the rear a much chunkier 15-inch, but it still handles pretty well, negotiating sodden roads without giving cause for concern. The basic front forks and twin rear shocks do the job, as do the front disc/rear drum brakes – the rear drum especially is nice and progressive.

In fact, in the way of 125s, it's an easy bike to ride, thanks to light clutch and gearchange, low seat and simple

switchgear. Comfy too, with a decent riding position and a seat that really wouldn't disgrace a full-size cruiser. The quality looks good as well, with paint, chrome and welds all far better than the average Chinese bike of five years ago. Finally, the fuel tank holds a whopping 13.5 litres, so given a typical 125 fuel consumption of 100mpg, a 300-mile range looks within reach - all the excuse you need to hit the open road.

TECH SPEC

LEXMOTO MICHIGAN 125

Price	£1400
Engine	Air-cooled 125cc single
Power	9.6bhp
Weight	140kg
Fuel capacity	13.5 litres
MPG	100mpg (est)
Seat height	680mm
On sale	Now
Contact	www.lexmoto.co.uk

MCN VERDICT

Convincing Harley lookalike that goes easy on the chrome



WE LIKE

- Understated style
- Relaxed cruising

WE DON'T LIKE

- Still pretending to be something it's not
- Born to be mild motor