

READERS' RIDES



Keep it simple

Victorian Chris Manhal got all fired to send us these pics of his SR500 after seeing our Yamaha thumper feature in SB46. He picked up the bike two years ago for \$700 as cheap transport — “house, kids etc”. But then the engine died so he bought another SR as a basket case and rolled up his sleeves. The frame was powder-coated, the bodywork (plus that Le Mans fairing) was resprayed. He got Hagon shocks, accessory lights, braided lines, Laverda 'bars, stainless steel bolts for everything. The donk has been heavily breathed upon and now runs a Wiseco piston, heavy-duty valve springs, a Tingate/Wade race cam, 38mm Mikuni carb and Megacycle exhaust. Then the fun began — after destroying two sets of rockers, three cams and one valve, “a faulty rocker box was diagnosed”. When finally on the road, our hero got himself wiped by a taxi — “never mind that the exhaust note is louder than the paint” — and looked forward to starting again. Now he’s talking about adding Akront rims, a steering damper, and getting the crank balanced.

**CHRIS IS
OUR MAN!**

**SINGLE-MINDED CHRIS MANHAL
SCORES THIS ISSUE'S AXO
HELMET FOR HIS WELL
EXECUTED SR500**