

The Cucciolo years

Ducati successfully revived the fortunes of its Borgo Panigale works with the moped engine - the first step in mass motoring for post-war Italy. Initially Ducati produced the original four-stroke Cucciolo moped engine under license from SIATA in Turin. The engine was a success which relaunched the Marque and provided bike builders with the basis for a wide variety of applications, some of them very interesting



### A TORINO E' NATO UN "CUCCIOLO"



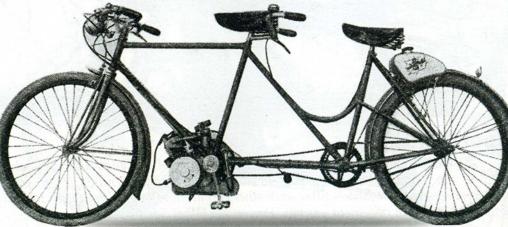
BELOW, A CUCCIOLO-POWERED TANDEM FOR THOSE SPRING-TIME JAUNTS IN THE COUNTRY. THIS UNUSUAL VEHICLE HAD A RECORD WHEELBASE FOR A "POWERED BICYCLE".

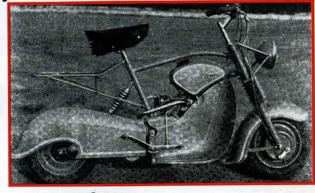
TALIANS HAVE **NEVER BEEN SHORT** OF IMAGINATION. IN THE DIFFICULT POST-WAR YEARS MANY SMALL BIKE **BUILDERS USED THE** Cucciolo. ABOVE,

DONDOLINA WITH SPRING SUSPENSION ON BOTH WHEELS

THE SPORTY

AND A STRAIGHT-THROUGH EXHAUST.







**TODAY'S MOPEDS ARE CERTAINLY** NOTHING NEW. TOP, THE HIGHLY ORIGINAL Z-48 WITH REAR CANTILEVER SUSPENSION. ABOVE, MUCH MORE ELEGANT, THE MUSETTA "LIGHT CYCLE" PRODUCED BY M.U.S.A. OF MILANO FITTED WITH A T2 SERIES ENGINE.

> THE GIARDINI MARGHERITA PUBLIC GARDENS IN BOLOGNA ON AN IDYLLIC DAY. A YOUNG COUPLE CAPTIVATED BY A CUCCIOLO. THE SLOGAN "POWER YOUR CYCLE" ACCOMPANIED THIS ADVERT FOR THE FIRST CUCCIOLO PRODUCED BY SIATA IN TURIN.

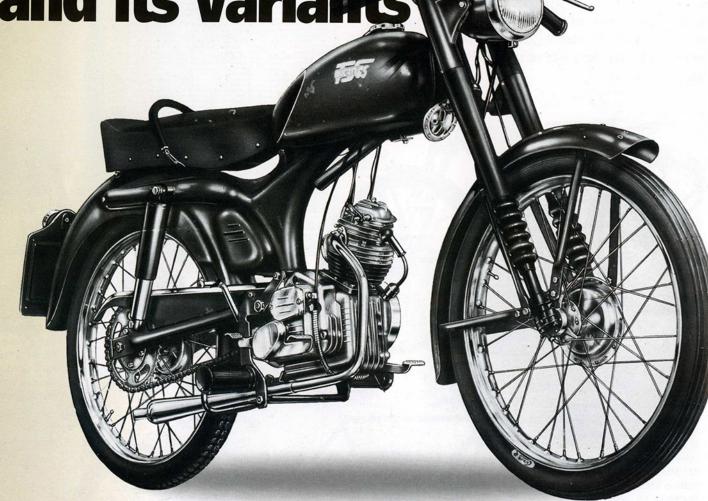
# 1946/1950

The motorcycles that made history

**Cucciolo and its variants** 

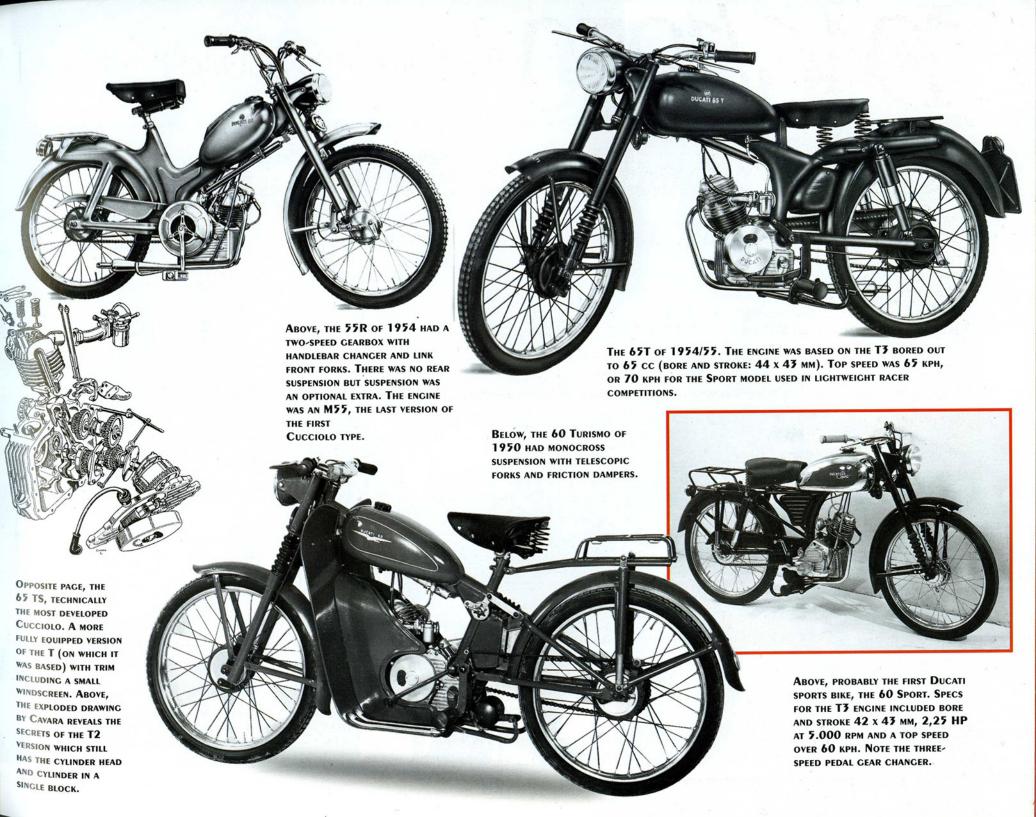
The first Cucciolo ("Puppy"), the TI manufactured by SIATA, had the cylinder head, block and part of the casing all in one piece. In 1948 Ducati redesigned the engine now christened the T2. The basic design philosophy remained unchanged: to provide a strong, reliable and economical power unit that could be fitted to bicycle or custom-built frames and thus meet the growing demand for private transport. The Ducati redesign bore fruit. Power increased from 1 hp at 4.500 rpm to 1,5 on the 1952 M SS model, a long-running best seller. Maintenance became simpler and separating engine componentry made production easier. Technically, the Cucciolo has some interesting features. Rather than an oil pump, the lubrication system used the much simpler splash lubrication. Valve actuation was by twin rocker arms and pull rods. As an alternative to the two-speed gearbox there was also the TO automatic. Other versions followed. The 55, 66 and 65, available in various trim from the spartan standard models to sportier

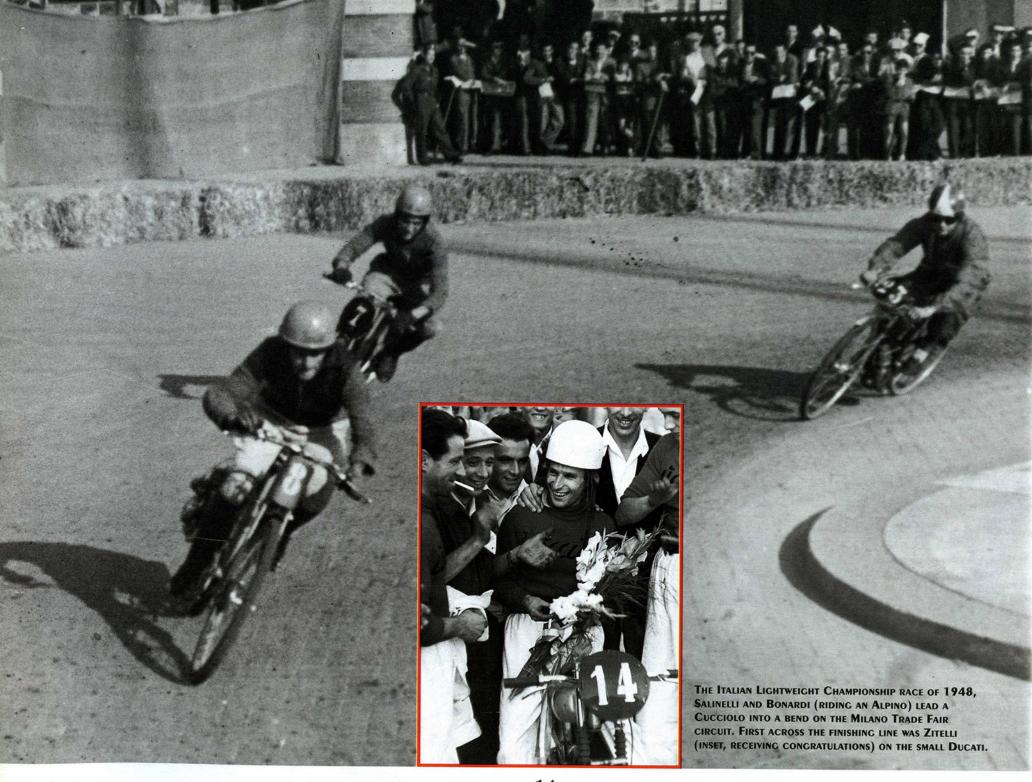
La motoleggerissima "DUCATI 60", sports versions were raced in the lightweight bike class. These bikes had T3 series engines with grease-lubricated covered valve gear and three-speed gearboxes



## **Specifications**

ENGINE: Single cylinder four-stroke, air-cooled. Pull rod and rocker arm valve operation. Bore: 39 mm. Stroke: 40 mm. Capacity: 48 cc. Magneto flywheel ignition. Weber carburettor with 9 mm choke (first models fitted with other carburettors). Oil sump splash lubrication. Gear primary drive, with two-speed gearbox. Power: 1,5 HP at 5.500 rpm.





Records and race wins

These small lightweight "microbikes" were the only way to go racing cheaply in the hard post-war years. Works teams were already fighting it out on town circuits watched by enthusiastic crowds. Alpino and Cucciolo where the two Marques to beat. In 1950 the small Ducati Cucciolo, with Ugo Tamarozzi riding, set 12 world records. A year later the team went from strength to strength with the arrival of Farné, Miani, Pennati, Caroli and Sozzani, setting one record after another



Ugo Tamarozzi col "Cucciolo Ducati 48...

SETTING 27 WORLD RECORDS, ALSO ESTABLISHING THE 24 HOUR RECORD IN THE 100 CC CLASS.

IN 1951 THE CUCCIOLO RAN FOR 48 HOURS NON-STOP



ABOVE, AN EXCITING STAGE OF A HOTLY DISPUTED 50 CC RACE. LEFT, ALBERTO FARNÉ CROSSING THE FINISHING LINE WITH HIS DUCATI 65. A CAPTION TO THE PHOTO AT THE TIME RECORDS HIS LABOURS: "STOPPED AT 16 KILOMETRES FROM THE FINISHING LINE DUE TO A MAGNETO FAULT, THIS INTREPID RIDER PUSHED HIS MACHINE TO THE FINISHING LINE TO FINISH EQUAL FIRST IN THE RIDER CLASSIFICATION".



THE TWO-SPEED GEARBOX OF THE M55 ENGINE HAD A CHOICE OF THREE TYPES OF GEAR CHANGER.

TAMAROZZI. IN 1950. AT THE VENERABLE AGE OF 46, HE SET 12 WORLD RECORDS IN THE 50 CC. CLASS RIDING HIS CUCCIOLO 48. TAMAROZZI, A SKILLED TRADESMAN, PREPARED HIS BIKE IN THE CELLAR AT HOME IN MILANO. TUNING WAS LIMITED TO A FEW INEXPENSIVE CHANGES. ENGINES RAN ON A MIXTURE OF PETROL, BENZOL AND ACETONE.

MAKESHIFT RACE OVERALLS FOR UGO

15

# The motorcycles that made history

The "98"

The history of this single-cylinder mirrors that of the Ducati Company. Certainly not a sporting bike, the 98 was pressed into competition service by Giuseppe Montano, managing director of the Company since 1953. Tuned up, the bike competed successfully in trials (two silvers at the 1954 Welsh Six Days) and long distance events (third place in the '54 Motogiro with Gandossi riding). The 98 was clearly designed as an economy, low performance model. Rocker arm and pushrod valve gear and a pressed steel frame leave no doubt about this. The 98 appeared in 1952 and was improved year after year. 1956 saw a changeover to a single tube frame. The engine was bored out to 55,2 mm in 1956 for a 125 cc version. Oil coolers were fitted to the S and SS models. The last series produced had the enlarged 125 cc engine. Models were renamed "Bronco" (with American styling) and "Aurea" (with the classic look) and continued in production until

the Seventies





THE 98 FIRST SERIES
HAD A THREE-SPEED
GEARBOX AND A PRESSED

ENGINE: Four-stroke single-cylinder, with 25° forward angle configuration. Air cooled. Bore: 49 mm. Stroke: 52 mm. Capacity: 98 cc. Compression ratio: 7:1. Pushrod and rocker arm valve gear with camshaft in the sump. Dellorto MB 16 B carburettor. Maximum power: 4.5 HP at 6.200 rpm. Magneto flywheel ignition. Lubrication: forced wet sump. Gearbox: primary reduction by gears. Chain final drive. Wet, multi-plate clutch. Kick-start (could also be operated with a gear engaged). Fuel tank capacity: 10 litres. FRAME, FORKS AND RUNNING GEAR: Pressed steel frame with overhung engine. Front telescopic forks. Swinging arm rear suspension with twin telescopic shock absorbers. Brakes: front and rear side drums. Tyres: 2.75 x 17" (front and rear). WEIGHT (dry): 72 kg. PERFORMANCE: top speed 82 kph (head down position).

