

# CLASSIC DRIVER



This ex-Police BMW R 80 RT has crossed over to the dark side

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*Once a loyal servant to the Swiss Police force, this 1988 BMW R 80 RT has been given a shadowy new lease of life as a promotional vehicle-come-supercharged drag racer...*

The offending machine, named Polizia Uno 'P1' by its creators, was one of three ex-Police R 80 RT patrol bikes procured by Swiss-based customisation shop, [VTR Customs](#). Originally used by the Italian-speaking division of the Swiss Police force (though wearing the livery of its German equivalent in tribute to its homeland, hence 'Polizei' rather than 'Polizia'), the P1 drops only a few hints of its past life. These come in the form of the original blue emergency light, and some battle scars suffered while in service, kept as character witness statements.

**Guilty as (super)charged**



Long after being relieved of duty – and shedding its police-spec panniers – the bike now fulfils a new role, operating as a drag-strip racer and a rolling attestation of VTR’s expertise in the model. The company has engineered a custom fuel-injection system (with a switch on the top fork yoke for different fuel and ignition maps), and has also added a belt-driven Rotrex supercharger and a nitrous oxide set-up in a quest to bring down its eighth-of-a-mile sprint times. Less serious additions include a child’s dummy (for noisy prisoners of the pillion?), and a spiralling design to the rear wheel hub that supposedly hypnotises onlookers into wanting to visit the VTR Customs workshop, which is hidden in the basement of a strait-laced BMW Motorrad dealer in Schmerikon. Unsurprisingly, the bike is no longer road-legal – a case of reverse-reformation, indeed...

*Photos: VTR Customs*

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