

CLASSIC DRIVER

1917 Excelsior 61ci

Stafford, 17 October

- Lot sold
USD 30 359 - 36 430
GBP 25 000 - 30 000 (listed)
Year of manufacture 1917
- **Engine number** 92531
- **Condition** Used
- **Location** 
- **Motorcycle type** Street
- **Colour** Other
-

Description

1917 Excelsior 61ci Motorcycle Combination

Frame no. EX92531

Engine no. 92531

- * Premier American make
- * Restored condition
- * Stylish 'Banbury' transport

The famous American Excelsior motorcycle was produced by the Excelsior Motor Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Illinois from 1907 until 1931, latterly under the 'Super-X' brand name. The first Excelsior was a belt-driven single cylinder machine, the engine of which formed part of the frame. The engine itself was an inlet-over-exhaust 'F-head', a design then much in vogue because, whatever its limitations, it enabled the exhaust valve to be directly cooled by the incoming mixture, a positive advantage at a time when the science of metallurgy was in its infancy. 1911 was a landmark year in Excelsior's history, for the firm was acquired by bicycle maker Ignaz Schwinn and introduced its first v-twin model that year. In 1913 the 61ci (1,000cc) twin was offered with all-chain drive, while two-speed planetary transmission and a leaf-sprung, Indian-style front fork were two innovations introduced for the following season. By this time the original Excelsior single had been dropped, being replaced for 1914 by a 250cc two-stroke lightweight.

Alongside rivals Harley-Davidson and Indian, Excelsior offered a three-speed countershaft transmission for 1915, at the same time introducing a new frame with curved top tube and smoothly rounded tank, a first for Excelsior. Deeply valanced mudguards distinguished the v-twin of 1917. 'Military' olive green was adopted as the Excelsior livery that year and would remain the only option until 1920 when blue became the norm. In

1921 a 74ci (1,200cc) v-twin was added to the range, but by this time Excelsior had acquired the manufacturing rights to the Henderson Four and the days of the big v-twins were numbered. They were gone by 1925, Excelsior preferring to concentrate its resources on the Four and the newly introduced Super-X 45ci (750cc) v-twin.

An imposing motorcycle from any angle, this restored Excelsior motorcycle combination is offered with an Automotoclub Storico Italiano certificate.

Bonhams 1793

Title Mr

First name Bonhams Collectors' Car department

101 New Bond Street

London

W1S 1SR

United Kingdom

Phone +44-02089632817

Fax +44-2074477401

<http://www.bonhams.com/departments/MOT-CYC/>

Source URL: <https://www.classicdriver.com/en/bike/excelsior/61ci/1917/334470>

© Classic Driver. All rights reserved.