

How to identify your DKW NZ

1. Engine Number

Following is a compilation of DKW NZ engine numbers:

Engine no.	Year	Model	Partslist no.	Description
840001 - 850000	1938 / 1939	NZ 350	58	
880001 - 890000	1938	NZ 250	58	
955001 - 960000	1939 / 1941	NZ 500	63	
980001 - 90000	1939	NZ 250	58	
990001 - 99998	1939 / 1940	NZ 350	58	
1060001 - 1066500	1939 / 1940	NZ 250	58	
1069801 - 1070000	1941	NZ 250	58	
1100601 - 1110000	1940 / 1941	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941)	
1121001 - 1121100	1941	NZ 500	63	
1125001 - 1180000	1941 / 1942	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941)	
1180001 – 1358332+	1942 /1944	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941+1944)	
*1) 1358201 - 1358???	1944	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	Dynamo type 6M 35/45
1359001 - 1360000	1944	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	Dynamo type 6M 35/45
1400001 - 1401212	1944	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	Dynamo type 6M 45/60
1401213 – 150????	1944 / 1945	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	

*1) Data according to “DKW Short Notice No. 328”. In fact an cast-iron engine bearing the no. 1354362 was already found. This indicates an earlier starting number for the cast-iron engines. On the other hand I have seen one aluminium engine bearing the no. 1358332 which should make it an cast-iron engine! I suppose that it would be a safe assume that in the beginning of 1944 aluminium and cast-iron engines were made almost alongside. At least the overlapping engine numbers indicate this.



Picture by courtesy of Rob Hickmott



Picture by courtesy of Thomas Seilkopf

“72 and VG”

Additionally the NZ 350 aluminium engines were marked “72” and VG. The “72” stands for the diameter of the cylinder bore. It was used at the factory to tell whether this engine was used for a NZ350 with 72mm bore or a NZ250 with 68mm bore. Remember that the engine cases for both bikes are the same.



The “VG” stands for “Verstaerktes Getriebe” which means reinforced gearbox. This new gearbox design was introduced with engine no. 1180501 in early 1942.

In order to date your engine correctly, the aluminium engines were marked with the month and year of manufacture on the front engine lug. On the picture below it can be seen that my engine was manufactured in 05-1943.



2. Chassis / Frame Numbers

Following is a compilation of DKW NZ chassis / frame numbers:

Frame no.	Year	Model	Partslist no.	Description
460001 - 472000	1938	NZ 250 / 350	58	
472001 - 490000	1939	NZ 250 / 350	58	
499001 - 599996	1939	NZ 250 / 350	58	
540001 - 549000	1939	NZ 250 / 350	58	
549001 - 550000	1940	NZ 250 / 350	58	
550001 - 553000	1939 / 1940	NZ 500	63	
553001 - 554600	1941	NZ 500	63	
580001 - 590000	1940	NZ 250 / 350	58	
590001 - 595199	1941	NZ 250 / 350	58	
595200 - 597700	1941	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941)	
597701 - 600000	1942	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941)	
600001 - 608500	1942	NZ 350	D605-12 (1941)	*1)
608501 - 612000	1943	NZ 350	n/a	3000 bikes with rear Suspension *2)
612001 - 618999	1943 - 1944	NZ 350-1943	D605-12 (1944)	
619001 - 621732	1944	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	Dynamo type 6M 35/45
621733 - 668???	1944 / 1945	NZ 350-1	D605-28 n/a	Dynamo type 6M 45/60

*1) Martin Wilby (UK) states his bike no. 608268 is marked 1943! The above figure should therefore be treated with some scepticism.

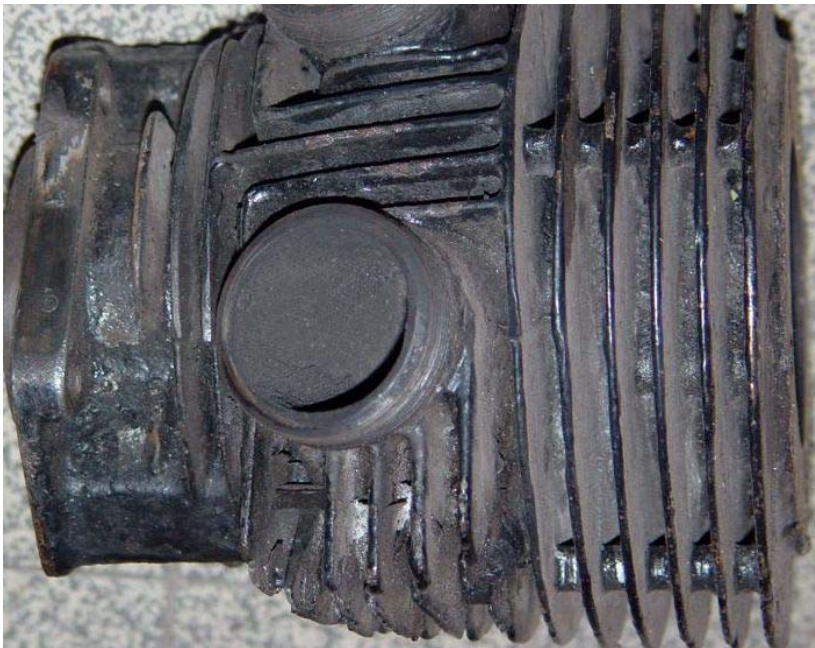
*2) Is this correct? Tore Fjorstad has a bike no. 609684 but with standard rear end.

According to "DKW Short Notice No. 328" the first NZ350-1 should bear the chassis-no. 619001. But according to the manual for the NZ350-1 "The first approx. 2200 engines starting with chassis no. 618120....". On the other hand again, Dave (UK) has a NZ350-1943 with chassis no. 618597!

Other Date Stampings

Cylinder

On the base of the NZ cylinder generally the same date stamp is used on the crankcase of the aluminium engine. See pictures below:



Thomas Willig 24.05.2007