



HONDA

Handwritten signatures in the bottom left corner, including the name 'Gary'.

250 *Elsinore*

A sneak preview of Honda's first production two-stroke.

For years Honda turned their back on two-stroke production. Then the rumors began. Then Honda began racing their 250 motocrosser in Japan, although officially the sponsor was the Technical Sports Club. But this club works exclusively for Honda and is staffed by former parent employees. Now there is word that they may campaign Europe in 1973.

Our secret agent in Japan had indicated that the 250 was scheduled for inclusion in the '73 product line (see Pipeline: Japan elsewhere in this issue). Then he sent along these photos and a spec sheet written in Japanese which we received on the day we were sending this issue to press.

A flurry of translating activity was immediately initiated.

The model number is CR250M; the name is Elsinore and it certainly appears to have been built with the intent of producing an out-of-the-crate racer. Reported horsepower is 33 while dry weight is 212 pounds according to our kilograms to pounds conversion chart. On first glance the chassis geometry appears very European. It reminded us a bit of the Maico. The swing arm appears to be more ground parallel than is normally seen on off-road machines from Japan. Evidently those are cooling fins placed at the bottom of the shocks. The gas tank, apparently a polished alloy rather than painted steel, looks to be quite slim, and in keeping with its designed purpose holds less than two gallons. We also noted serrated folding foot pegs.

Our guess on showroom availability of the bike would be spring of '73. That would be just in time for another go at the Baja 500. Can Honda win it again with a 250, and if so which one will it be—the brand new two-stroke Elsinore or last year's victor, the four-stroke XL 250? We doubt that any models have even reached the west coast distributor yet and units probably won't be available for testing until after the first of the year. Watch for a complete test report early next year. **CG**



HONDA CR250M ELSINORE

Engine Type	single cylinder, two-stroke
Bore and stroke	70x64.4mm
Displacement	248cc
Compression Ratio	7.2:1
Max. Horsepower	33 @ 7,500 rpm
Max. Torque	23 ft/lbs @ 6,500 rpm
Ignition	magneto
Carburetion	34mm
Lubrication	pre-mix
Length	89 in
Seat height	34 in
Dry weight	212 lbs
Front tire size	3.00x21
Front brake type	internal expanding
Rear tire size	4.00x18
Rear brake type	internal expanding
Transmission	5-speed
Clutch	multi-disc, wet
Internal gear ratios	(1) 2.056; (2) 1.571; (3) 1.250; (4) 1.037; (5) 0.862
Fuel tank	1.85 gal
Front suspension	telescopic
Rear suspension	spring over shock
Frame type	semi-double cradle
Standard equipment	primary kickstarting

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American Honda Motor Co.
Gardena, California 90247