GENERAL

2012 kawasaki ninja 650 specs

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Introduction

When it comes to mid size sport bikes that offer a blend of performance, comfort, and affordability, the **2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650** remains a standout choice for riders worldwide. Whether you're a seasoned rider looking for a reliable daily driver or a newcomer seeking an entry level sport bike, understanding the detailed **2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650 specs** can help you make an informed decision. This article delves deep into every aspect of the 2012 Ninja 650, from its engine and chassis to its ergonomics and aftermarket potential, providing you with a comprehensive guide that covers everything you need to know before hitting the road.

Overview of the 2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650

The 2012 Ninja 650 is part of Kawasaki's renowned Ninja line, known for its aggressive styling and high performance. This model sits comfortably in the 600 class segment, offering a middle ground between the lightweight Ninja 400 and the more powerful Ninja ZX 10R. With a 649 cc parallel twin engine, the 2012 Ninja 650 delivers strong low end torque and a smooth power delivery that's ideal for both city commuting and spirited highway riding.

Key Highlights

- Engine displacement: 649 cc
- Power output: 78 hp @ 8,000 rpm
- Torque: 52 lb ft @ 5,500 rpm
- Transmission: 6 speed manual
- Wet weight: 440 lbs (199 kg)
- Seat height: 34.3 inches (87 cm)

Engine and Performance

The heart of the 2012 Ninja 650 is its 649 cc, liquid cooled, DOHC parallel twin engine. Designed for smooth power delivery, the engine features a 90° crankshaft, a 12 valve configuration, and a single overhead camshaft per cylinder. This setup ensures a balance between performance and reliability.

Power Delivery

With a peak power of 78 horsepower at 8,000 rpm, the Ninja 650 offers a lively acceleration curve. The engine's broad torque band—52 lb ft at 5,500 rpm—provides ample low end grunt, making it forgiving for new riders and useful in urban traffic. The power curve peaks at 6,000 rpm, giving riders a sweet spot that feels both accessible and exciting.

Fuel System

The bike employs a 24 bar fuel injection system that optimizes throttle response and fuel efficiency. The fuel tank capacity is 3.7 gallons (14 liters), which, combined with the efficient engine, delivers a respectable real world range of around 70–80 miles per gallon.

Cooling and Lubrication

Liquid cooling keeps the engine at optimal temperatures even during extended rides. The oil cooler, located under the seat, helps maintain oil temperatures, reducing wear and improving longevity. Regular maintenance of the coolant and oil levels is essential for sustaining performance.

Transmission and Drivetrain

The 2012 Ninja 650 is equipped with a 6 speed manual gearbox, which offers smooth gear transitions and a close ratio that keeps the engine within its power band. The bike uses a chain drive system with a 12 speed final drive ratio, allowing riders to customize the gearing for either acceleration or top speed preference.

Clutch and Shift Mechanism

It features a dual plate wet clutch that provides reliable engagement and a moderate clutch lever feel. The shift lever is positioned for easy reach, and the gear shifter is designed for a crisp, tactile feel, reducing the likelihood of missed shifts.

Chassis and Suspension

The Ninja 650's chassis is a lightweight, aluminum frame that provides a good balance of stiffness and flexibility. This design contributes to the bike's nimble handling characteristics.

Front Suspension

The front fork is a 41 mm telescopic fork with 6.1 inches (155 mm) of travel. The adjustable preload allows riders to fine tune the fork's stiffness based on load and riding style, while the compression and rebound damping settings provide a smooth ride over uneven roads.

Rear Suspension

The rear uses a single shock absorber with 5.1 inches (130 mm) of travel. The shock is adjustable for preload, compression, and rebound, enabling riders to tailor the rear suspension to match their weight and riding preferences.

Brakes and Safety Features

The 2012 Ninja 650 is equipped with a front disc brake (310 mm) and a rear disc brake (240 mm), both of which offer strong stopping power. The front brake is paired with a 2 piece caliper for better heat dissipation. The bike also features a dual channel ABS system, which is optional on some trims but highly recommended for added safety.

Fuel and Economy

Fuel efficiency is a significant advantage of the Ninja 650. With a combined city/highway rating of approximately 70–80 mpg, the bike offers excellent range for daily commuting and longer rides. The fuel injection system's precise control over the air fuel mixture ensures optimal combustion and reduced emissions.

Maintenance Schedule

- Oil change: every 4,000–5,000 miles (6,400–8,000 km) or 12 months
- Chain lubrication: every 500 miles (800 km)
- Brake pad inspection: every 2,000 miles (3,200 km)
- Coolant replacement: every 2 years or 20,000 miles (32,000 km)

Dimensions and Weight

Understanding the bike's dimensions helps riders gauge how well the Ninja 650 will fit in their riding environment.

- Length: 81.9 inches (208 cm)
- Width: 31.9 inches (81 cm)
- Height: 45.3 inches (115 cm)
- Wheelbase: 55.1 inches (140 cm)
- Seat height: 34.3 inches (87 cm)
- Wet weight: 440 lbs (199 kg)

Exterior and Design

The 2012 Ninja 650 features Kawasaki's signature aggressive styling. The sharp, aerodynamic fairings give the bike a racing aesthetic, while the LED headlights and taillights provide modern illumination. The bike's color options include classic black, white, and a few limited edition colors, allowing riders to personalize their machine.

Lighting

The LED headlamp delivers a bright, white light that improves visibility, especially during night riding. The taillight and turn signals are also LED, enhancing safety and providing a sleek look.

Interior and Ergonomics

Ergonomics are crucial for rider comfort, especially on longer trips. The Ninja 650 offers a relaxed riding position with a slightly forward-leaning seat, which reduces fatigue on extended rides. The handlebar is positioned to provide a natural grip, and the footpegs are placed to allow a comfortable leg extension.

Controls and Instrumentation

The instrument cluster includes a digital speedometer, tachometer, fuel gauge, and a trip computer. The layout is intuitive, and the backlit display ensures visibility in low-light conditions.

Optional Accessories and Upgrades

There's a wide range of aftermarket parts available for the 2012 Ninja 650. Popular upgrades include:

- Performance exhaust systems for increased horsepower
- High performance air filters for better airflow
- LED headlight upgrades for brighter illumination
- Custom seat options for improved comfort
- Upgraded suspension components for enhanced handling

Maintenance and Common Issues

Routine maintenance is key to ensuring the longevity of your Ninja 650. Some common issues reported by owners include:

- Chain wear: The chain tends to stretch over time, requiring regular inspection and replacement.
- Oil leaks: A minor oil leak can occur around the crankcase gasket; tightening or replacing the gasket can resolve this.
- Brake pad wear: The front brake pads may wear faster under aggressive riding conditions; monitor pad thickness regularly.
- Cooling system: Over time, coolant may become contaminated, necessitating a flush and refill.

Comparison with Other Models

When compared to its peers, the 2012 Ninja 650 holds its own in terms of performance and value.

Model	Engine	Power	Weight	Price (used)
2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650	649 cc	78 hp	440 lbs	$3,500–$4,500
2012 Yamaha MT 07	689 cc	74 hp	425 lbs	$3,800–$4,800
2012 Honda CBR650R	649 cc	75 hp	438 lbs	$4,200–$5,200

Buying Guide

When looking to purchase a 2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650, keep the following tips in mind:

1. Check the mileage: Lower mileage typically indicates less wear and tear.
2. Inspect the frame: Look for cracks or signs of impact damage.
3. Verify service records: A well maintained bike is less likely to have hidden issues.
4. Test ride: Feel the throttle response, braking, and suspension behavior.
5. Consider aftermarket parts: Custom upgrades can improve performance and comfort.

FAQ

What is the typical maintenance cost for a 2012 Ninja 650?

Routine maintenance, including oil changes, chain lubrication, and brake pad replacement, typically costs between $200 and $400 annually, depending on usage.

Is the 2012 Ninja 650 suitable for beginner riders?

Yes, the bike's approachable power, comfortable ergonomics, and moderate weight make it an excellent choice for new riders.

Can I use the Ninja 650 for touring?

While it's not a dedicated touring bike, the Ninja 650's comfortable seat and good fuel economy make it suitable for short to medium touring trips.

Conclusion

The 2012 Kawasaki Ninja 650 remains a compelling option for riders seeking a blend of performance, reliability, and value. Its 649 cc engine delivers strong torque and a smooth power curve, while the lightweight chassis and adjustable suspension make it agile on both city streets and open highways. With a reasonable maintenance schedule, a wide range of aftermarket upgrades, and solid resale value, the Ninja 650 proves to be a versatile sport bike that can adapt to various riding styles. Whether you're a first time rider or an experienced enthusiast, the 2012 Ninja 650 offers a satisfying riding experience that stands the test of time.

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