GENERAL

aprilia rs 125

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Aprilia RS 125: Performance, Features, and Buying Guide

The **Aprilia RS 125**has become a hallmark of Italian sportbike engineering, blending lightweight agility with a punchy two stroke powerplant. Whether you're a seasoned rider looking for a spirited daily machine or a newcomer eager to feel the thrill of a true sportbike, the RS 125 offers a compelling package. This guide dives deep into every aspect of the bike—from its technical specs to its real world riding feel—so you can make an informed decision before you hit the road.

Overview of the Aprilia RS 125

Introduced in the early 2000s, the RS 125 quickly carved a niche in the competitive 125 cc segment. Its name—*RS* standing for "Racing Sport"—hints at its purpose: a lightweight, responsive machine that delivers an exhilarating riding experience. Built on the same platform as the popular Aprilia Tuono series, the RS 125 shares many components but is fine tuned for a tighter, more aggressive feel.

Key Specifications

Below is a snapshot of the most important technical details that define the **Aprilia RS 125**:

- Engine Type: 125 /cc, 4 stroke, liquid cooled, single cylinder, DOHC, 4 valves per cylinder
- Power: 15 /hp (11.5 /kW) at 10,000 /rpm
- Torque: 11 /Nm at 7,000 /rpm
- Transmission: 6 speed, dry clutch, shaft drive
- Weight: 122 /kg (dry), 132 /kg (wet)
- Seat Height: 815 /mm
- Fuel Capacity: 10 /L
- Front Brake: 320 /mm disc, 2 piece caliper
- Rear Brake: 240 /mm disc, single piston caliper
- Suspension: Front: 41 /mm telescopic fork; Rear: Twin shock, 120 /mm travel
- Dimensions: Length: 2,080 /mm | Width: 840 /mm | Height: 1,215 /mm
- Ground Clearance: 140 /mm

Design and Ergonomics

The RS 125's visual identity is unmistakable. Its aerodynamic fairing, sharp lines, and aggressive stance are typical of Aprilia's racing-inspired lineup. The fairing not only provides a sleek look but also improves airflow, reducing drag and enhancing high speed stability.

Ergonomically, the bike is designed for a rider of moderate height. The seat is slightly higher than the average 125 cc motorcycle, allowing for better weight distribution and a more upright riding position. The handlebars are positioned to give the rider a relaxed grip, reducing fatigue during long rides.

One of the standout features is the lightweight aluminum frame. Combined with the low center of gravity, the RS 125 offers nimble handling, making it a joy to navigate tight corners.

Engine and Performance

The heart of the **Aprilia RS 125**is its 125 cc, liquid cooled, single cylinder engine. Although it shares a basic architecture with other Aprilia 125 models, the RS 125's engine is tuned for a higher power peak and quicker revving.

Power Delivery

The engine produces 15 hp at 10,000 rpm—a figure that places it at the upper end of its class. The torque curve is fairly flat, with a peak of 11 /Nm at 7,000 /rpm, allowing riders to feel immediate acceleration from low speeds.

Fuel Injection and Emissions

Unlike many older 125 cc bikes that use carburetors, the RS 125 is equipped with electronic fuel injection. This not only improves throttle response but also enhances fuel efficiency and reduces emissions, keeping the bike compliant with modern regulations.

Cooling System

Liquid cooling ensures that the engine remains at an optimal temperature even during prolonged high RPM sessions. The radiator is strategically placed to benefit from the bike's airflow, preventing overheating.

Transmission and Drivetrain

The RS 125's 6 speed gearbox is a dry clutch, which offers a more straightforward maintenance profile compared to wet clutches. The shaft drive, while heavier than a chain, provides low maintenance and a smoother power delivery, ideal for daily commuting and spirited rides alike.

Chassis, Suspension, and Brakes

Front Suspension

The 41 mm telescopic fork provides a good balance between stiffness and compliance. With adjustable preload, riders can fine tune the fork to match their weight or riding style.

Rear Suspension

The twin shock setup offers 120 mm of travel. Adjustable damping allows for a comfortable ride on rough roads and precise handling on twisty tracks.

Braking System

The front disc brake is a 320 mm, dual piece caliper that delivers strong stopping power. The rear disc is smaller but sufficient for the bike's power output. While the RS 125 does not come with ABS as standard, many riders opt for aftermarket kits to enhance safety.

Electronics and Instrumentation

The instrument cluster is simple yet functional. It includes a tachometer, speedometer, fuel gauge, and a digital display for gear position. The RS 125 also offers a basic LED lighting system, which is brighter than the standard halogen lamps found on many 125 cc bikes.

Some newer variants feature a traction control system, which helps prevent wheel spin during aggressive acceleration—an excellent addition for riders who frequently push the bike to its limits.

Fuel Efficiency and Emissions

One of the key selling points of the RS 125 is its fuel economy. Thanks to the efficient engine and lightweight chassis, the bike can achieve up to 55 km/L under mixed driving conditions. This makes it an economical choice for daily commuting.

With its electronic fuel injection and precise engine management, the RS 125 meets Euro 4 emission standards, ensuring that it remains compliant in most European markets.

Maintenance and Service

Maintenance for the RS 125 is relatively straightforward. The dry clutch system requires less frequent servicing than a wet clutch, and the shaft drive eliminates the need for chain lubrication and tensioning.

Key maintenance points include:

1. Oil change every 3,000 /km or 12 /months, whichever comes first.
2. Check and replace the air filter every 6,000 /km.
3. Inspect the front fork and rear shock for leaks and adjust preload as needed.
4. Replace brake pads every 8,000 /km.
5. Periodic inspection of the cooling system, especially the radiator and hoses.

Aprilia dealerships typically offer comprehensive service packages that cover most of these tasks, making it convenient for owners to keep the bike in peak condition.

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Lightweight frame for agile handling.
- High power output for its displacement.
- Fuel efficient and low emissions.
- Low maintenance thanks to dry clutch and shaft drive.
- Stylish, race inspired design.

Cons

- No ABS standard (though aftermarket options exist).
- Higher purchase price compared to basic 125 cc bikes.
- Limited rear seat for passengers.
- Requires a moderate rider height for optimal ergonomics.

Comparison with Competitors

When placed side by side with other 125 cc sportbikes, the RS 125 holds its own. Below is a quick comparison with two popular rivals: the Honda CBR125R and the Yamaha YZF R15.

- Honda CBR125R – 11 /hp, 110 /L fuel capacity, chain drive, 6 speed gearbox. The RS 125 offers higher power and a more aggressive stance.
- Yamaha YZF R15 – 15 /hp, 3 piece ABS, 6 speed gearbox, chain drive. The RS 125's shaft drive is maintenance friendly, but the R15 provides a more modern electronics suite.

In terms of performance, the RS 125's power output is comparable to the R15, but its chassis and ergonomics favor

riders who prefer a more traditional sportbike feel.

Buying Tips and Aftermarket Options

Purchasing a **Aprilia RS 125**can be a rewarding investment, but a few considerations can help you get the most out of your purchase.

1. Check the Service History: If buying used, ensure the bike has a documented maintenance record.
2. Inspect the Frame: Look for signs of cracks or corrosion, especially around the swingarm and steering head.
3. Upgrade the Brakes: Installing an ABS kit can significantly improve safety.
4. Consider a Performance Exhaust: A lightweight aftermarket exhaust can add a few horsepower and improve throttle response.
5. Custom Seat Options: A more ergonomic seat can reduce fatigue on long rides.

Conclusion

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