

BMW Czech Republic

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BMW R 18 Henne Tribute.

A unique Czech conversion of BMW R 18 motorcycle in the style of and according to the rules of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA).

Prague. The BMW R 18 motorcycle with a two-cylinder Big Boxer engine with a displacement of 1800 cc has been designed not only as a technically superior machine referring to the best traditions of classic BMW motorcycles, but thanks to a specific approach it is built to be used for further modifications, individualizations and conversions. This has led to creations such as the R 18 Dragster, the Blechmann R 18 and the R 18 Spirit of Passion. A unique modification by the Czech company Funk Soul Motor Works Brno, created in cooperation with BMW Motorrad ČR and called R 18 Henne Tribute, has also found its own style.

The name of the custom BMW R 18 Henne Tribute already makes it clear that the modification has followed the style of speed records. In the pre-war years, the German Ernst Jakob Henne was the holder of many speed records set on the salt flats of Bonneville in the USA – a total of 76 gained in his lifetime with variously modified BMW motorcycles. It is the combination of Germany and America that is reflected in this original machine. It is designed so that all you have to do is swap the registration plate for a starting number and it can take on the Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials (BMST). While it is built to the current AMA Land Speed Grand Championship and FIM Land Speed World Records regulations, it is a motorcycle that has lost none of its contemporary engineering common to modern motorcycles. It is therefore naturally approved for use on normal roads.

It is to Henne's specials that all the aerodynamic elements of the custom BMW R 18 Henne Tribute refer. The aerodynamic wing-shaped front fork covers, the aerodynamic drop-shaped engine cylinder head covers and other details were seen in the 1930s. But at the same time, Funk Soul Brothers Motor Works Brno, the company started by a duo of motorcycle enthusiasts Jan Urban and Roman Šimčík, used many



parts made from handmade Kevlar, one of the results of the huge development of aerospace technologies in the 1950s and 1960s.

Overall, the style of the motorcycle, which retains the typical design features of classic BMW motorcycles, is tuned to the first half of the 1970s. This includes, for example, the extent of the chrome work, but also the color combination. The distinctive color scheme is one of the hallmarks of the American 1970s. At the same time, the color scheme evokes the BMW R 90S sports roadster, with which BMW broke into the American market in the 1970s.

It took Brno-based Funk Soul Brothers Motor Works, a company specializing in motorcycle modifications and special conversions, just 70 days to build the R 18 Henne Tribute from the time the project was approved by BMW Motorrad ČR. The sheet metal parts, handlebars, front plate and oil cooler cover, inspired by the typical BMW radiator grille design, were created in the company's workshops. Some components were purchased from specialist companies and others were produced by verified suppliers. For example, the bespoke Alcantara seat upholstery, the Kevlar components, the milled parts or the hand-built exhaust system - all of these elements are the work of Czech professionals and impress with their attention to workmanship and the way they handled various details.

The unique styling of the BMW R 18 Henne Tribute not only shows that Czech motorcycle customizers are among the top in the industry, but also that they can add the right historical legacy to their custom product besides the actual workmanship. The blend of modern technology and style from different historical periods is complemented by a unique combination of German and American heritage. There's also a casual dose of wit in the form of the "Schmeling" lettering on the Big Boxer engine block, whose pistons have the power of a heavyweight boxer...

The BMW R 18 Henne Tribute motorcycle isn't just designed as a showpiece. On the contrary, it is ready for real use and for creating riding pleasure. It is on display at the Veteran Mania exhibition at the Prague Exhibition Center (Výstaviště), but will subsequently be made available for media tests and will also be on display at individual authorized BMW Motorrad dealerships across the Czech Republic.



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