

61 Vespa VBB Restoration Project (Part 1 of 6)



Saturday, March 29, 2008

Introduction

This blog will document the restoration of my 1961 Vespa VBB1T, purchased on August 20th, 2007 in dilapidated condition from a collector in Antioch, California. There was grass everywhere, even in the cylinder, and it was painted rattle can red.

Here are the Before pictures:





I should say that this is my first restoration -- I am not an expert by any stretch. I am learning as I go, and intend to use this blog to document the steps I take, and the mistakes I make, so that I can learn from it and do (even) better on the next restoration!

I choose a VBB as my first restoration project for a couple of reasons: First, because with the 8-inch wheels and rounded cowels, it very much has that sweet classic Vespa look. Second, the electrical system is simple and reliable -- no battery, kick start, should make it easier to restore. Third, parts for VBB's seem to be fairly easy to come by. I'm guessing either because a lot of them were made, or a lot are still running, or a little of both. And forth, the 61's were the first model with a 4-speed transmission, which should make driving them even more fun.

If you are reading this and you **are** an expert (or at least experienced) in restoring old scooters, please chime in with any advice or pointers! And if I'm doing something boneheaded, please let me know! I want to end up with a nice looking, accurate restoration of a 61 VBB, and would appreciate any and all help I can get.