

## Mini Electric Trials Bikes: Ride In The Backyard, But Maybe Not In The House

**O**SET BIKES HAS come up with a new way to get your small child involved in motorcycling—by introducing pint-sized electric-powered trials bikes. The two models have 12.5" wheels for 3 to 5-year-olds, and 16" wheels for 5 to 10-year-olds. They are set to debut in October.

The Spider 12.5 model has a 28" wheelbase, a 15" seat height, and a top speed of 14 mph. It weighs 47 lbs., and can carry a child up to 50 lbs.

The Spider 16 model has a 35" wheelbase, an 18.5" seat height, and a top speed of 17 mph. It weighs 57 lbs. and is meant for children up to 100 lbs.

The battery pack on either model lasts between two and seven hours, depending on how strenuously the bike is used. About six hours is required to fully recharge the batteries. Replacement batteries can be purchased for \$30 for the 12.5 and \$35 for the 16 models. The battery is made of a Rare Earth-Neodymium combination.

For skittish parents, a control on the bike allows the top speed to be dialed back. The Osets also have a key, so the parent can control when the bike is ridden.

The bikes are the brainchild of Ian Smith, producer of trials DVDs and the provider of back issues and articles for many motorcycling magazines (including MCN). He wanted a way to introduce his son Oliver to motorcycling. The first prototype, a modified electric scooter, was completed when Oliver was 3. Oliver is now 5, and has won three Colorado State Trials championships in the Junior B division, astride an Oset bike.

Smith touts the bikes as a great alternative to gas-powered bikes. The bikes are quiet, and can be ridden in the neighborhood, which allows a child to learn skills faster, since they are able to ride every day. They're easily transported, and their lighter weight allows more maneuverability, since they weigh about the same as the child, according to the company's brochure.

Other advantages include: no kickstarts, no leaking gas or oil, and no difference in performance due to altitude.

The bikes are also a bit cheaper than their gas-powered counterparts: \$700 for the 12.5 and \$800 for the 16.

Sticker kits will soon be available to change the color scheme of the bikes.

Ordering information: [www.osetbikes.com](http://www.osetbikes.com)

—Franke Santos

