

# **1998 Yamaha Trailway Tw200 Model Years 1987 1999**

## **1998 Yamaha Trailway TW200: A Deep Dive into Model Years 1987-1999**

The Yamaha TW200, a dual-sport motorcycle renowned for its reliability and versatility, enjoyed a long and successful production run from 1987 to 1999. This article delves into the history and features of this iconic machine, focusing specifically on the 1998

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model year while providing context within the broader 1987-1999 timeframe. We'll explore its key characteristics, **TW200 maintenance** needs, and why it remains a popular choice for riders today. We'll also touch upon the **Yamaha TW200 modifications** many enthusiasts undertake to personalize their rides, and discuss the availability of **Yamaha TW200 parts**.

### **Introduction: The Enduring Legacy of the Yamaha TW200**

The Yamaha TW200, often affectionately nicknamed the "Trailway," carved a unique niche in the motorcycle world. Unlike traditional dual-sport bikes, its wide, knobby tires and upright riding position provided exceptional stability and maneuverability, equally at home on paved roads and challenging off-road trails. While subtle changes occurred throughout its production run (1987-1999), the core design remained consistent, solidifying its reputation for ruggedness and

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simplicity. The 1998 Yamaha Trailway TW200 represents a mature stage of this evolution, benefiting from years of refinement.

### Key Features and Specifications Across Model Years (1987-1999):

The Yamaha TW200's enduring appeal stems from its simplicity and functionality. Key features that remained consistent throughout its production life include:

- **Air-cooled, single-cylinder engine:** This provided exceptional reliability and ease of maintenance.
- **Wide, knobby tires:** This unique feature delivered excellent traction on various terrains.
- **Upright riding posture:** This ensured rider comfort, both on and off-road.
- **Durable construction:** Built to withstand the rigors of off-road

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riding.

While the core design remained consistent, minor changes occurred over the years. For example, the carburetor settings and some cosmetic details were adjusted in response to evolving emission standards and rider preferences. The 1998 model year generally reflected these incremental improvements, offering a refined and reliable package. The differences between a 1987 and a 1999 model were subtle, primarily involving minor aesthetic tweaks and perhaps slight carburetor adjustments for improved emissions compliance.

## **The 1998 Yamaha Trailway TW200: A Closer Look**

The 1998 Yamaha TW200 inherited the strengths of its predecessors while incorporating refinements that enhanced its overall appeal. Owners frequently praise its:

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- **Ease of maintenance:** The simple air-cooled engine is relatively straightforward to work on, making routine maintenance accessible even to novice mechanics.
- **Fuel efficiency:** The single-cylinder engine boasted impressive fuel economy, a significant advantage for riders undertaking long journeys.
- **Lightweight design:** This makes it easy to handle and maneuver, especially in challenging off-road conditions.
- **Affordable price point:** Even today, used 1998 TW200 models represent excellent value for money.

However, it's important to acknowledge potential drawbacks:

- **Limited power:** Compared to larger dual-sport motorcycles, the TW200's power output is relatively modest. This is not a machine for high-speed highway riding.
- **Basic suspension:** The suspension system is designed for durability rather than high-performance, leading to a less

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refined ride on rough terrain compared to more modern models.

### **Modifications and Customization Options:**

One of the reasons the TW200 remains popular is its adaptability. Owners frequently modify their bikes to enhance performance or personalize their appearance. Popular modifications include:

- **Exhaust upgrades:** Aftermarket exhaust systems can improve engine breathing and enhance the sound.
- **Suspension upgrades:** Upgraded shocks and forks can significantly improve handling and comfort.
- **Air filter modifications:** High-flow air filters can enhance engine performance.
- **Cosmetic enhancements:** Many owners personalize their TW200s with custom paint jobs, seat covers, and other

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accessories.

### **Conclusion: A Timeless Classic**

The Yamaha TW200, particularly the 1998 model, represents a classic motorcycle that blends simplicity, reliability, and versatility. Its enduring appeal lies in its ease of use, low maintenance requirements, and exceptional off-road capabilities. While it may not boast the power or sophistication of modern dual-sport bikes, its rugged character and affordability make it an attractive option for riders of all skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or a new rider seeking a dependable machine, the Yamaha TW200 deserves serious consideration.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q1: What is the average lifespan of a Yamaha TW200?**

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A1: With proper maintenance, a Yamaha TW200 can last for many years and tens of thousands of miles. Regular oil changes, diligent care of the air filter, and attention to chain lubrication are key factors. Many TW200s remain on the road decades after their initial production, showcasing their inherent durability.

### **Q2: How difficult is it to find parts for a 1998 Yamaha TW200?**

A2: Parts for the TW200 are relatively easy to find, especially for common components. Many parts are still available from Yamaha dealers, and a thriving aftermarket provides numerous options for accessories and replacement parts. Online marketplaces also offer various used parts.

### **Q3: Are Yamaha TW200s good for beginners?**

A3: Yes, the Yamaha TW200 is an excellent choice for beginners. Its lightweight design, manageable power, and forgiving handling make it easy to learn on. Its relatively low seat height also adds to its

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beginner-friendliness.

### **Q4: What kind of fuel does a Yamaha TW200 use?**

A4: The Yamaha TW200 utilizes regular unleaded gasoline.

### **Q5: What is the typical fuel economy of a Yamaha TW200?**

A5: The TW200 is known for its excellent fuel economy, typically achieving over 70 miles per gallon.

### **Q6: What is the recommended maintenance schedule for a Yamaha TW200?**

A6: Refer to your owner's manual for the specific recommended maintenance schedule. However, regular oil changes, chain lubrication, and air filter cleaning are crucial for maintaining peak performance and engine longevity.

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**Q7: How does the 1998 TW200 compare to other dual-sport bikes from the same era?**

A7: Compared to other dual-sport bikes of the time, the TW200 stands out due to its unique wide-tire design and exceptional low-speed maneuverability. Other bikes might have offered more power but perhaps lacked the TW200's versatility on various terrains.

**Q8: Where can I find a used 1998 Yamaha TW200?**

A8: Used Yamaha TW200s can be found through various online classifieds, motorcycle dealerships, and private sellers. It's important to thoroughly inspect any used motorcycle before purchasing to ensure it's in good mechanical condition.

## **Riding Through Time: A Deep Dive into**

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## **the Yamaha TW200 (1987-1999)**

The Yamaha TW200, a celebrated motorcycle that shaped a generation of adventure riders, enjoyed a significant production run from 1987 to 1999. This exploration will delve into the progression of this popular machine, focusing on the specific features that made the 1998 model year, and the overall lineage, so enduring . We'll examine its design, performance, dependability , and its lasting impact on the motorcycle world.

The TW200's singular selling point was its innovative design. Unlike conventional dual-sport bikes of the time, which usually boasted knobby tires and a more aggressive stance, the TW200 opted for wide fat tires, a low seat height, and a comfortable riding posture. This blend produced a motorcycle that was remarkably easy to control, both on and off the path. It wasn't a speed demon ; its unassuming 196cc air-cooled single-cylinder engine prioritized ease of operation over outright speed. This made it suitable for newcomers

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and experienced riders equally.

The 1998 model year, falling squarely in the middle of the TW200's production run, embodied the peak of its maturity. Yamaha had consistently enhanced the design over the years, incorporating small but significant changes to augment the overall riding experience . Particular improvements might have consisted of tweaks to the fuel system , leading to enhanced throttle response and fuel efficiency . The chassis might have undergone minor modifications to provide a more smooth ride over bumpy terrain. Minor updates to the instruments might also have been implemented .

What really set the TW200 apart, however, was its versatility . Its unusual tire setup allowed it to capably traverse a broad range of landscapes , from streets to off-road paths. This made it a perfect choice for daily driving , weekend excursions , and even casual off-roading. Its small size and lightweight weight made it simple to store , while its reliability ensured that it would rarely leave its driver

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stranded.

The TW200's legacy extends beyond its practical applications. It evolved into a symbol of frugality, reliability , and uncomplicated enjoyment. It appealed to riders who appreciated a authentic riding experience over flashy features and high-powered capabilities. Many drivers formed strong bonds to their TW200s, often customizing them to reflect their personal styles and requirements .

In conclusion, the Yamaha TW200, particularly the 1998 model, embodies a exceptional chapter in motorcycle history. Its innovative design, unmatched versatility, and unwavering reliability augmented to its enduring popularity. The TW200 continues to possess a special place in the hearts of many riders, a testament to its enduring appeal and perpetual legacy.

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

#### **1. What are the common maintenance issues for a Yamaha**

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**TW200?** Common issues include carburetor cleaning, regular chain lubrication, and occasional electrical component replacement. Regular maintenance, as outlined in the owner's manual, is key to longevity.

**2. Are parts readily available for a TW200, especially older models?** While some parts might require more searching than for newer models, many parts are still available through both Yamaha dealers and aftermarket suppliers. Online forums are a great resource for locating parts.

**3. Is the TW200 suitable for long-distance riding?** While not designed for extreme speeds or long days in the saddle, with modifications and mindful riding, longer journeys are possible. Comfort upgrades like a better seat are often recommended.

**4. What is the resale value of a well-maintained TW200?** The resale value depends on the year, condition, and any modifications.

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Well-maintained TW200s often retain strong value due to their enduring popularity and reliability.

**5. How difficult is it to work on a Yamaha TW200?** The TW200 is considered relatively easy to maintain and repair due to its simple design. Many owners perform routine maintenance themselves, making it a user-friendly machine for mechanically inclined individuals.

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