

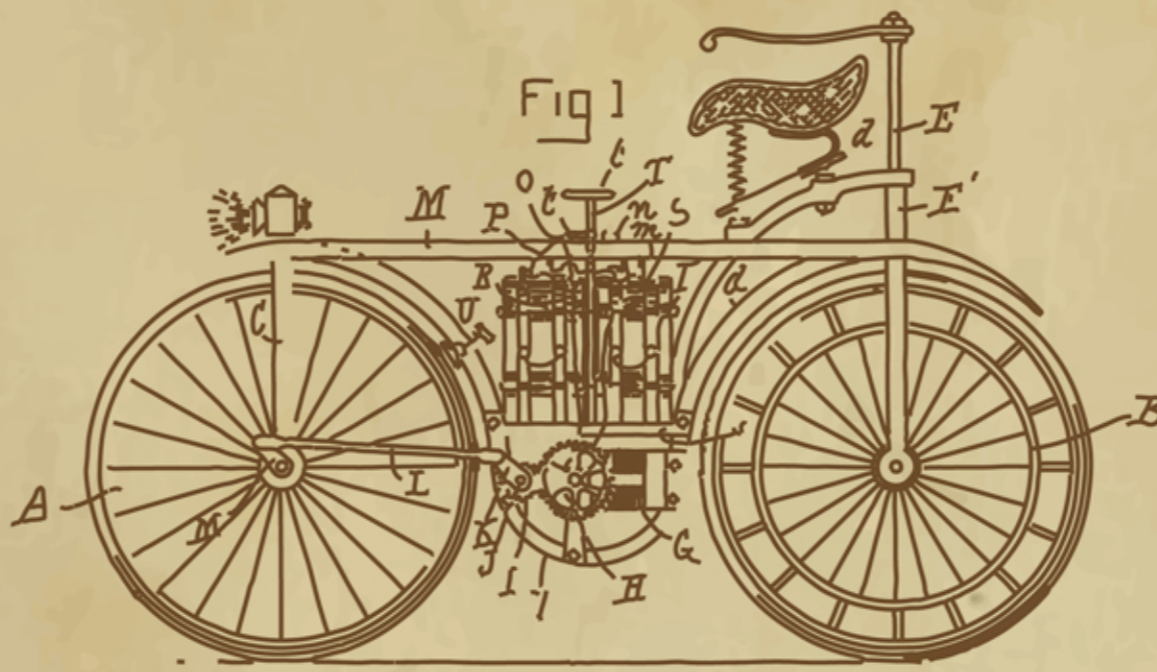


Electric
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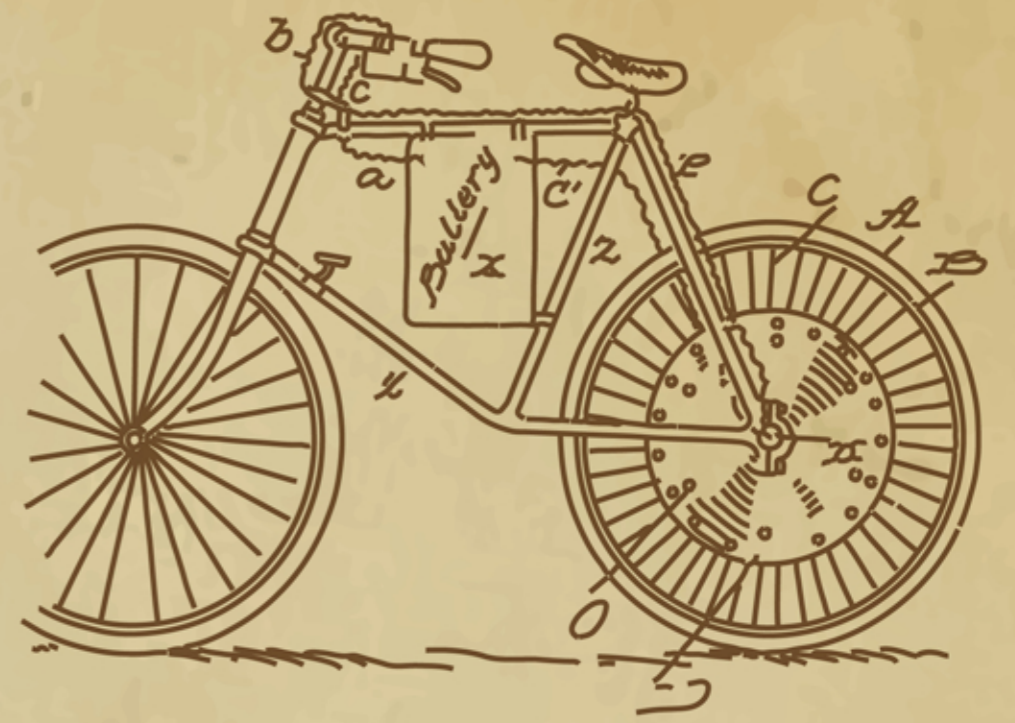
History of Electric Motorcycles

The history surrounding electric motorcycles is somewhat unclear. The first electric bicycle was patented in Boston on October 8, 1895. The patent is titled "Electric Bicycle" however the specifications and designs in the patent describe a motorcycle; two wheeled vehicle, powered by a motor, and has no pedals.

These early model electric motorcycles were not commercialized. Despite several patents after 1895 the first commercial mention of an electric motorcycle didn't occur until the October, 1911 edition of Popular Mechanics. The article doesn't name any manufacturers but said electric motorcycles were being "introduced".



Technical drawing for "Electrical Bicycle" Patent by Hosea W. Tibbey of Massachusetts in October, 1895



Technical drawing for "Electrical Bicycle" Patent by Ogden Bolton, Jr. of Ohio in December, 1895



Socovel Electric Motorcycle

In 1941 a Belgian company named Socovel (Company for Research and Construction of Electric Vehicles) manufactured around 400 electric scooters. They were produced as a result of WWII fuel rationing.



Karl Kordesch and his converted electric motorcycle

A series of advancements in the technology took place over the years to follow. However, serious commercialization of electric motorcycles didn't begin until the late 60's and early 70's after Karl Kordesch created the alkaline battery and converted his motorcycle to electric. Many variations of electric powered bicycles, scooters, mopeds, drag bikes and motorcycles have since been developed, manufactured and sold.

ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES TODAY...

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Electric motorcycles today are making leaps and bounds towards catching up with their internal combustion engine counterparts.

Two electric motorcycle companies called Zero and Bramma are currently leading the way. Both companies are marketing models of their motorcycles to security and police forces. Several of these forces are currently testing the bikes in the field including The London Metropolitan Police Department and the Hong Kong Police. The Zero DS, for example, has a top speed of 95 mph and an approximate highway range of 82 miles.



E-bikes are human-electric hybrid vehicles. They have two wheels and involve a combination of power from pedaling and an electric motor.

If you are riding a powerful e-bike, you can reach speeds well beyond that of a bicycle and close to those of a motorcycle.

The international e-bike market is currently dominated by China. They account for every 9 out of 10 e-bike sales.



The world's quickest electric motorcycle is the Lawless Electric Rocket, which won a National Electric Drag Racing Association record. In 2012 the bike made 6.94 seconds at 201.37 mph over a quarter mile. The world's fastest electric is the Lightning at 215.9660 mph over a mile.

As batteries get smaller these motorcycles will get faster top speeds and better range. There are a lot of electric motorcycle concepts out there and a lot of people converting gas bikes to electric.

The future of the electric motorcycle is full of possibilities!

