

Victa 500 Twin



History of this machine

This 500 Twin was received in a non operational condition in the early 1990s. While it showed little sign of wear, it was stored away as a project to be revisited when time and motivation was available. This machine was lucky not to be discarded during a move of house two years ago, being saved only by it's near-new condition.

Recently I thought I would see if I could find any details of this machine on the internet. I was disappointed that I was unable to find much information on what I believe to be an unusual, in not extravagant piece of machinery.

I'm not aware of any other manual (that is not self propelled) two cylinder lawn mowers being manufactured, and it appears Victa discontinued the model after a short run.

I managed to find some documents I got with the machine and are pleased to make available these four page specifications in a PDF.

I do recall in the 1970's a friend had one of these lawn mowers and I always thought a twin cylinder two stroke engine was a bit over the top. Single cylinder machines seem to work fine, so why go to all the trouble and expense of increased fuel consumption and maintenance costs?



But I have always been impressed by the condition of this machine and recently decided to tackle it again. As it had been sitting idle for so long it was no surprise that it did not even hold fuel, but this was soon rectified by replacing an O ring in the carby.

I got the engine to run but it would not accelerate much above idle speed. While I'm not expert of lawn mowers, I tinkered with the carby for a while, and also re-gapped the ignition points (no fancy electronic ignition here!), but the engine would still not accelerate.

I tried a different carby I had from another mower and was surprised to find it fitted straight on. Fired it up and all of a sudden I had a proper throttle control.

The only other repair required was some fibreglassing of the grass catcher to keep it in one piece. This fine example of 1970's excess is now ready for return to service.

I can't help but wonder if they are any other Victa 500 Twin lawn mowers still in existence and operating?

Also attached are a number of photos this machine.



Unusual Taste!
The Victa 500 Twin runs a lean mixture of 50:1, *Regular* (leaded if you can still get it) petrol, if you don't mind.

Today it would probably advise us not to operate in bare feet or thongs.



Early days of mod-cons on lawn mowers, don't forget to empty the catcher

Nothing small about this machine. Even the fuel tank holds 1.5 ltr (2 ½ pints)

