

# 2025 MODEL INFORMATION



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MODEL NAME

**W230**

Photos used in this Model Information generally depict the JPN model.



## CONCEPT

# THE ORIGINAL ICON: AUTHENTIC 250CC RETRO SPORT MODEL

Kawasaki's W series is composed of a rich heritage of classically styled machines with tried-and-true performance that began with the 1965 650-W1 and continues to this day. Expanding the series, Kawasaki introduces the W230, a highly accessible 233 cm<sup>3</sup> retro sport machine that brings the W heritage into the popular 250cc class. The new model continues the tradition of the W series, but with a weight, and seat height that opens the experience to even more motorcyclists than ever before.

Firing up and riding the W230 reveals that careful consideration was given to capture the pleasant, rumbling engine character afforded by the 233 cm<sup>3</sup> air-cooled 4-stroke SOHC single cylinder engine. Thanks to linear power delivery and ample torque throughout the rev range, especially in the low- to mid-rpm range, the W230 offers comfortable acceleration with a pleasant pulsating sensation, which is further bolstered by a balancer for a smooth overall acceleration. The rider-friendly engine character is complemented by a compact, lightweight chassis offering both comfortable cruising and light, predictable handling.

With styling that will speak to the heart of anyone who loves classic motorcycles, the W230's looks continue the W series' proud tradition of elegant styling and proportions, while its modern engine along with numerous present-day touches contribute to a well-rounded package.

## POINTS TO PUSH

ADVANTAGE  
01

### TIMELESS BEAUTY: HISTORIC W-FAMILY LOOKS

The W230 carries on the proud tradition of the W series with styling touches that have been in-style since the original W. The W230 possesses a simple, timeless beauty that lovers of classic motorcycles will appreciate.

#### Relaxed Riding Position - P.8

Position of the handlebar, seat and footpegs put the rider in a relaxed, upright position that facilitates control of the bike.

#### Low Seat Height - P.8

With one of the lowest seat heights in its class, the W230 is suited to a wide range of riders, bringing the W heritage to a broader audience and making this W one of the most accessible machines in the 250cc class.

#### Regal W-Family Proportions

The machine's overall proportions are well-balanced, with a classic-looking silhouette inspired by the original W and its older siblings in the W series.

#### Slim, Compact Chassis - P.6

The chassis is slim with compact proportions for smooth, easy handling for a wide range of riders. The slim design also contributes to a relaxed reach to the ground for the rider's feet.

#### Light Weight, Light Handling - P.6

The W230 is one of the lightest models in the 250cc retro sport category at 143 kg, which facilitates handling and enhances rider confidence. An excellent power-to-weight ratio is another benefit.

#### Predictable Handling Character - P.6

Steering was designed to be unhurried like the machines of yesteryear, with the machine reacting predictably to the rider's inputs and flowing smoothly into turns.

ADVANTAGE  
02

### CLASSIC W RIDE FEEL

Special attention was given to ensuring that the W230 has a pleasant, rumbling character when twisting the throttle at low- to mid-rpm. The classic riding position, rhythmic pulse, and fine-tuned exhaust note add to rider enjoyment.

#### Elegant Muffler with Fine-Tuned Exhaust Note - P.5

The header pipe flows elegantly from the engine and ends in a peashooter-style silencer to recreate the beautiful look of early W models for true classic styling. The exhaust note was fine-tuned to produce a deep bass sound and pulsing sensation when accelerating. When cruising, the exhaust volume is approximately the same level as wind noise, contributing to a pleasant ride feel.

#### Vintage-Style Air Cooled Engine Design - P.4

For both the looks from the outside and the feel when riding, the W230's engine delivers a vintage character. Special care was given to the design to produce classic looks in a modern engine, with sculpted engine parts including large, rounded fins on the cylinder head.

ADVANTAGE  
03

### LIGHTWEIGHT CHASSIS FOR HIGH ACCESSIBILITY

To make the W230 light and facilitate handling for a wide range of riders, the frame is slim, compact and lightweight, and the seat height is low, making it highly accessible for both for new and returning riders. The result is a compact, well-balanced motorcycle chassis.

#### Traditional Instrumentation - P.11

Round, retro-style gauges with a built-in LCD display offer the best of both worlds: classic, easy-to-read looks with the added information a modern LCD display.

#### Retro-Style Lighting - P.10

Retro-style headlight and taillight feature round housings reminiscent of the original W models.

#### Classic-Style Teardrop Fuel Tank with 3D Emblem - P.10

The fuel tank's teardrop shape contributes to the timeless beauty of a W model, while a specially designed 3D emblem catches the eye and distinguishes this model within the category.

#### Vintage Look and Feel - P.10

Details like a classic seat design, steel fenders, and spoked wheels contribute to the machine's timeless beauty and a vintage feel that riders will notice when they first sit on the machine.

#### Large-Diameter Spoked Wheels - P.7

Spoked 18" front and 17" rear wheels lend the W230 a distinguished, stylish look and feel that contributes to smooth handling as well as a big-bike appearance.

#### Pleasant Ride Feel at Low Speeds - P.4

When riding, the engine offers a pleasant pulsating sensation thanks to the crankshaft's high moment of inertia. Ample torque from the initial twist of the throttle provides a fun, engaging ride quality—especially in the low-to mid-rpm range.

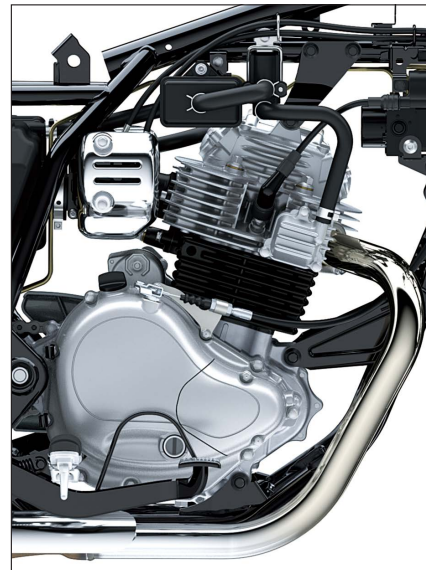


## TECHNICAL DETAILS

## ENGINE

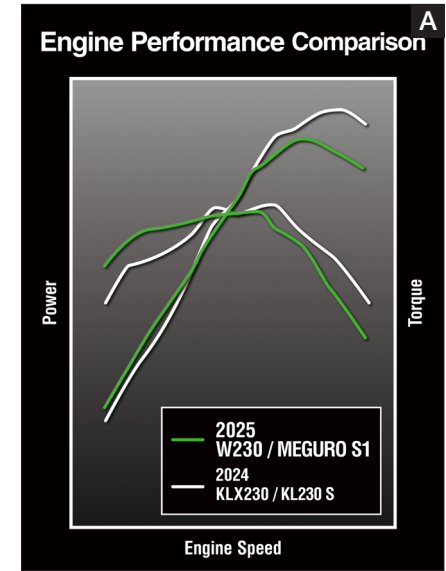
Fuel-Injected 233 cm<sup>3</sup> Air-Cooled 4-Stroke Single Engine

The W230's engine provides a pleasant, rumbling character when twisting the throttle, which is a major part of the rider's enjoyment. Its power is complemented by ample, smooth torque that creates a rider-friendly character and delivers linear acceleration. The engine is compact, contributing to the bike's manoeuvrability and light weight, and the simple construction and light weight afforded by air-cooling further contribute to smooth, predictable handling.



- \* The 4-stroke air-cooled single cylinder engine offers both reliability and strong performance, while contributing to a compact package.

- \* Bore and stroke of 67.0 x 66.0 mm yield a displacement of 233 cm<sup>3</sup>. With engine tuning chosen to prioritise torque, the engine offers a robust low-mid range and a flat torque curve, pulling strongly and predictably. (Illustration A)



- \* Simple SOHC 2-valve design reduces complexity and contributes to a rider-friendly character that lends itself to fun cruising.
- \* Fuel injection system delivers precise response. With fuel injection, fuel delivery is stable regardless of outside air temperature or atmospheric pressure. It also ensures excellent starting characteristics, whether the engine is hot or cold, and contributes to clean emissions. The smooth response also facilitates smooth U-turns and initial acceleration from a stop.
- \* Cam profile contributes to ample torque at low rpm for smooth cruising performance.
- \* Optimised intake duct length, a narrow intake port, and small intake valve promote quick intake airflow for smooth response when accelerating while already in motion.
- \* Iridium spark plugs are used for improved combustion.
- \* ECU settings optimised for the W230 help keep the engine churning at slow speeds and offer smooth throttle response during initial acceleration from a stop and U-turns.



- \* The crankshaft's moment of inertia contributes to smooth performance at lower rpm. Its heavy flywheel mass makes the engine less likely to stall when the throttle is opened at slower speeds, facilitates maintaining a constant rpm when riding, and reduces throttle sensitivity, making the W230 able to cruise in a gentle, calm way.
- \* A gear-driven engine balancer helps to reduce engine vibrations, ensuring smooth power delivery at all rpm. This contributes to excellent comfort and ride quality.
- \* Fuel pump canister and tubes are located under the fuel tank for a clean look.
- \* Exhaust port is located so that the exhaust pipe exits toward the right of the engine, to emphasise the beauty of the exhaust pipe shape and its curving line stretching from the engine to the end of the silencer.

- \* Centre pipe's curved shape includes a catalyser for emissions regulations. A heat guard covering the curved portion of the pipe makes it appear straight for a stylish look. The pipe upstream of the silencer was designed to have the same diameter as the silencer tip for a streamlined look. (Photo 1)



- \* Exhaust pipe is stainless steel with a buffed finish.
- \* A secondary air chamber with a large-size reed valve, along with two O<sub>2</sub> sensors (one located just inside the right side footpeg, and another below the swingarm) contribute to excellent exhaust gas performance at idle, without requiring additional covers for a clean look.

- \* The area around the catalytic converter is shaped so as not to stifle the engine sound, contributing to a pulsating single cylinder engine sound and feel.
- \* The internal structure of the silencer emphasises a sound with plenty of bass and ring to it, which contributes to the pulse of the engine when the rider opens the throttle. When cruising at partial throttle, the exhaust sound is subdued, which adds to a pleasant ride feel.
- \* The transmission features six speeds for both excellent performance on normal roads and easy cruising on the highway.
- \* A long secondary reduction ratio allows a wide speed range in each gear for smooth cruising.
- \* Friction material in the clutch was selected for smooth response when feathering the clutch.

# CHASSIS

## Lightweight Semi-Double Cradle Frame

The W230's lightweight frame is complemented by dimensions that are ideal for straightforward, simple handling, enabling both comfortable cruising and a light, predictable riding character—something that will be appreciated by all riders.



- \* The semi-double cradle frame's optimised rigidity contributes to the machine's light weight.
- \* The frame and swingarm's low torsional and lateral rigidity also help keep the weight low while contributing to light, natural cornering performance. This is part of the fun-to-ride character the W is known for, and also ensures that chassis handling is predictable and unhurried.
- \* The W230 is one of the lightest models in the 250cc retro sport category at only 143 kg. This is thanks in large part to its lightweight frame.
- \* The four rigid engine mounts reduce unwanted machine vibration for a pleasant pulsating ride feel.

## Composed Suspension

The orthodox  $\varnothing 37$  mm telescopic fork and twin rear shocks offer a supple ride and a composed handling character that adds to the rider's confidence and enjoyment.

- \*  $\varnothing 37$  mm telescopic fork contributes to well-balanced, composed handling on the street. (Photo 2)



- \* A 190 mm fork tube pitch, 27.0° caster and 99 mm trail deliver slow-and-steady lean characteristics.

\* At the rear is a twin shock setup for a classic ride feel. The rear shocks also offer 5-step preload adjustment. (Photo 3)



\* The swingarm is made with an elliptical cross-section for a reduced diameter and optimised torsional and lateral flex.

## Traditional-Looking Wheels, Tyres and Brakes

\* Spoked 18" front and 17" rear wheels lend traditional, W-family looks. The relationship between the suspension and tyre pressure has also been optimised in pursuit of high-quality ride comfort. (Photos 4-5)



\* The tyres have a profile with a retro style. The tyre sizes are as follows:  
 F: 90/90-18M/C 51S  
 R: 110/90-17M/C 60S

\* A single round  $\varnothing 265$  mm front brake disc paired with a dual-piston caliper delivers ample stopping power and adds to W-family style. (Photo 6)



\* A  $\varnothing 220$  mm round disc operated by a single-piston caliper slows the rear.

\* Standard ABS offers an added level of reassurance in many riding situations.

## Accessible Ergonomics

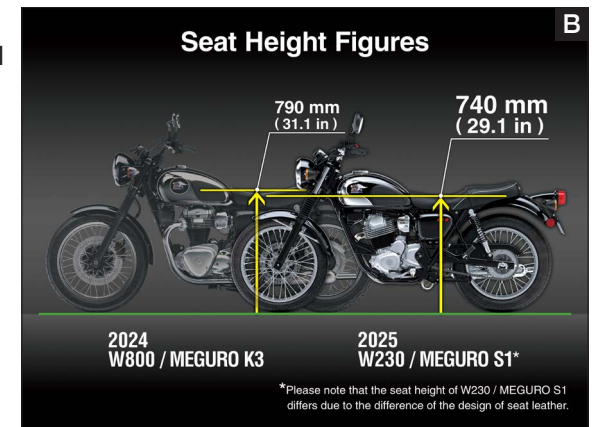
Riders will find the W230 highly accessible thanks to its lightweight chassis and a relaxed reach to the ground afforded by a slim seat design and low seat height. The relaxed, upright riding position contributes to ride comfort and facilitates control of the motorcycle.



\* Position of the handlebar, seat and footpegs put the rider in a relaxed, upright position that facilitates control of the bike. (Photo 7)



\* With a seat height of 745 mm, the W230 will inspire confidence in a wide range of riders, ensuring that it is a machine that many can enjoy. (Illustration B)



- \* The seat has a slim design to allow a wide range of riders to get their feet on the ground with confidence, making the W230 a highly accessible machine for all riders.
- \* Sculpted to offer the knees a place to grip, the fuel tank contributes to a comfortable ride and a riding position that facilitates control.
- \* Soft rubber under the seat, footpegs with rubber pads and vibration-absorbing weights, and bar end weights on the handlebar reduce the degree of unwanted vibration, to allow the rider to enjoy the pleasant pulsating sensation.



## Timeless Beauty: Historic W-Family Looks

The W230 carries on the proud tradition of the W series with styling touches that have been in-style since the original W. The W230 possesses a simple, timeless beauty that lovers of classic motorcycles will appreciate.



\* “Building a beautiful engine” was a key concept when adding styling touches to the air-cooled Single Engine. The classic-styled engine is lightweight, simple and a joy to behold. (Photo 8)



- \* The cylinder head’s rounded, large-size fins accentuate the engine’s beautiful shape and emphasise the W’s air-cooled engine, which is part of its identity.
- \* The cylinder is painted black in a nod to the 650-W1, marking this model as part of the W Family.
- \* Right and left side crankcase covers were designed to have curvature for a high-quality, refined look.
- \* The right-side crankcase cover is curved and integrated in a single surface in a styling nod to the original 650-W1, highlighting the engine’s presence with lines added around the case for a sense of undulation/roundness and a crisp look.
- \* On the left side, the crankcase cover is designed to blend with the chain case, and the shape follows that of the 650-W1 to add to a sense of belonging to the W family.
- \* The fuel injector cover is chrome to lend a retro feel.
- \* Oil filter cover construction contributes to a sense of curvature, and a high-quality, elegant-looking engine.

- \* The silencer's peashooter shape follows that of the 650-W1, with an all-stainless-steel design and Kawasaki's top-grade buffed finish, further solidifying its place as part of the W family.
- \* Overall, the lines follow a horizontal theme, and have just the right degree of curvature for an elegant, vintage style.

- \* Teardrop fuel tank is a classic Kawasaki shape forming horizontal lines to match the silencer and the seat. Graphics contribute to a solid look and sense of volume. (Photo 9)



- \* The fuel tank features a specially designed 3D "W" emblem. Its design flows from front to the rear to express a sense of speed and riding enjoyment.
- \* Chrome-plated handlebar adds to stylish, high-quality looks.

- \* Taking a page from previous W models, the seat follows a classic Kawasaki shape with horizontal lines for a strong sense of presence and strong links to the W family. Padded-style design of the seat's top complements its two-tone design. With a black surface, white sides and white piping as an accent, the seat completes a stylish, vintage look for the W230. (Photo 10)



- \* Side covers have an elegantly curved shape to accentuate the machine's lines.
- \* The swingarm pivot cover contributes to a tidy appearance in that area.
- \* Just the right amount of curvature was given to the front fender, with special attention paid to how the edges fold inward, for a high-quality and elegant look visible from the front and side.

- \* A blend of retro and modern designs, the ø130 mm LED headlight casts a bright, white light. It features two chambers (low-beam/high-beam), both with position lamps to ensure the whole lamp appears lit, like a retro-style bulb headlight. (Photo 11)



\* The headlight housing was designed to have just the right amount of volume for a W machine, while its paint adds to a sense of high quality.

\* Large-sized turn signals have a classic Kawasaki look and lend the W230 a vintage style and further illustrate that it is part of the W family. (Photo 12)



\* Stylish taillight is complemented by a stay with a shape reminiscent of those from classic Kawasaki motorcycles, further adding to a sense of high-quality, elegance and W-family belonging. (Photo 13)



\* The W230's colour and graphics combine inspiration from the W family with modern looks, making it attractive to a wide range of riders.

\* In several areas, steel and chrome were used for a high-grade look similar to the large-displacement W models throughout history and at present.

## Traditional Instrumentation

\* Traditional instrumentation includes separate speedometer and tachometer with classic display. A multi-function LCD screen incorporates an odometer, tripmeter, and clock. A full range of indicator lamps includes an FI warning lamp, dual turn signal indicators, low fuel level indicator, high beam indicator, and neutral indicator. (Photo 14)



\* Meter gauges feature an iconic "W" brand logo. Specially designed classic font, with yellow text on a black background adds to the elegant appearance.

\* Compact switchgear gives the handlebars a light, uncluttered appearance. But beneath the retro-style exterior, modern internals ensure reliable performance.



## Ample Accessories

\* A number of available accessories allow riders to customise their ride: knee pads, a rear carrier, USB Type C outlet, and chrome engine guards. (Photos 15-18)



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17



18

\* ETC 2.0 kit is available for Japanese models. The antenna attaches to the mirror stay on the handlebars. (Photo 19)



19



## COLOUR(S) W230

\* Metallic Ocean Blue / Ebony



## SPECIFICATIONS

### W230

DIMENSIONS	
Overall length	2,125 mm
Overall width	800 mm
Overall height	1,090 mm
Wheelbase	1,415 mm
Road clearance	150 mm
Seat height	745 mm
Curb mass	143 kg
Dry mass	133 kg
Fuel tank capacity	12 litres [JPN: 11 litres]
PERFORMANCE	
Max. power	12.9 kW {18 PS} / 7,000 min <sup>-1</sup> (EUR/THA/S.E. Asia (B3)/Mid. East) 13 kW {17 hp} / 7,000 min <sup>-1</sup> (USA) 13 kW {18 PS} / 7,000 min <sup>-1</sup> (CAN/JPN)
Max. torque	18.6 N·m {1.9 kgf·m} / 5,800 min <sup>-1</sup> (EUR/THA/S.E. Asia (B3)/Mid. East) 19 N·m {1.9 kgf·m} / 5,800 min <sup>-1</sup> (USA/CAN/JPN)

ENGINE	
Type	Air-cooled, 4-stroke Single
Valve system	SOHC, 2 valves
Bore x Stroke	67.0 x 66.0 mm
Displacement	233 cm <sup>3</sup> [JPN: 232 cm <sup>3</sup> ]
Compression ratio	9.0:1
Fuel supply	Fuel injection: ø32 mm x 1
Lubrication system	Forced lubrication, wet sump
Starting system	Electric
Ignition system	Digital
DRIVETRAIN	
Driving system	Chain
Transmission	6-speed, return
Gear ratios:	3.000 (39/13)
	2nd 2.067 (31/15) [JPN: 2.066 (31/15)]
	3rd 1.556 (28/18) [JPN: 1.555 (28/18)]
	4th 1.261 (29/23) [JPN: 1.260 (29/23)]
	5th 1.040 (26/25)
	6th 0.852 (23/27) [JPN: 0.851 (23/27)]
Primary reduction ratio	2.871 (89/31) [JPN: 2.870 (89/31)]
Final reduction ratio	2.714 (38/14)
Clutch type (Primary)	Wet multi-disc, manual

## SPECIFICATIONS

### W230

FRAME	
Type	Semi-double cradle, steel
Suspension:	
Front	ø37 mm telescopic fork
Rear	Twin shocks with adjustable preload
Wheel travel:	
Front	117 mm
Rear	95 mm
Caster (Rake angle)	27.0°
Trail	99 mm
Steering angle (left/right)	40° / 40°
Tyre:	
Front	90/90-18M/C 51S
Rear	110/90-17M/C 60S
Brakes: Front Type	ø265 mm disc (Effective diameter: ø237 mm)
Caliper	Dual-piston
Rear Type	ø220 mm disc (Effective diameter: ø186 mm)
Caliper	Single-piston

## KAWASAKI TECHNOLOGY



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