

What Year Is It?



Engine and frame numbers

Please check engine
and frame numbers!

Until 1968, BSA used a numbering system with a distinctive prefix for each type of machine, so it is easy to see if the engine and frame are from the same model or not. They then turned to a system using a dating code which was common to all models. The engine and frame number of the first arrangement seldom match, but may in some cases, while they should match in the second. Some engines carry extra letters such as P for police and HC for high compression.

The bulk of the numbers given are for postwar machines, but those applying to the wartime M20 are included. These machines were built with matching engine and frame numbers but when they underwent a major service there was no attempt made to keep them together, so they seldom match now. Some data on the system used in the 1930s is included and also the series used by the Ariel Huntmaster 646 cc twin, in case you find one in your BSA frame.

Prewar models

From 1932-35 BSA used a system based on numbering the annual model range from 1 upward, plus a prefix letter for the model type. The engines during this period used a combination of a year letter and the range number. Thus for 1933 the range number began at 1 for the 249 cc side-valve single and ran up to 13 for the 1000 cc vee-twin.

The first was thus the B33-1 and the last the G33-13, having been the G32-10 the year before and becoming the G34-14 the following year, when the range size increased.

For 1936 the year numbers were left out, and from 1937 the system was amended. From then the engine and frame used the year letter followed by the model type and the actual number. This followed through for all engines, but the frames differed a little as some were used for more than one model so the one prefix was common to several. Thus the 1937 M20 numbers began from engine HM20-101 and frame HM19-101 with the same frame also being used by four other models. The year letters were: 1932=Z, 1933=A, 1934=B, 1935=E, 1936=D, 1937=H, 1938=J, 1939=K and 1940=W.

Wartime models

The wartime M20 models have a letter W prefix as used for the few 1940 machines which were built between the works returning from their annual holiday and the outbreak of war. Approximate dates of production are as follows:

1939	101-9719
1940	9720-27039
1941	27040-50549
1942	50550-70000
1943	70001-90000
1944	90001-110000
1945	110001 on

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Postwar models 1945-69

Bantam

Year	Model	Engine		Rigid frame	Spring frame
		<i>Wipac</i>	<i>Lucas</i>		
1949	D1	UYD-101			
	D1	YD-101		YD1-101	
1950	D1	UYD-20001	UYDL-101		
	D1	YD-20001	YDL-101	YD1-20001	YD1S-20001
1951	D1	YD1-40001	YDL1-3001	YD1-40001	YD1S-40001
1952	D1	YD1-63001	YDL1-8001	YD1-64001	YD1S-64001
1953	D1	BD2-101	BD2L-101	BD2-101	BD2S-101

Year	Model	Engine		Rigid frame	Spring frame
		<i>Direct/ competition</i>	<i>Battery</i>		
1954	D1	BD-101	BDB-101	BD2-14600	BD2S-14600
	D3	BD3-101	BD3B-101	BD2-14600	BD2S-14600
1955	D1	DD-101	DDB-101	BD2-34701	BD2S-34701
	D3	BD3-5138	BD3B-5138	BD2-34701	BD2S-34701

Year	Model	Engine		Plunger frame
		<i>Direct</i>	<i>Battery</i>	
1956	D1	DD-4801	DDB-3301	BD2S-55001
1957	D1	DD-	DDB-	BD2S-
1958	D1	DD-8577	DDB-7849	BD2S-65001
1959	D1	DD-10812	DDB-10628	BD2S-67581
1960	D1	DD-12501	DDB-12501	BD2S-70501
1961	D1	DD-14501	DDB-14501	BD2S-73701
1962	D1	DD-15481	DDB-16413	BD2S-76680
1963	D1	DD-16129	DDB-17606	BD2S-78746

Year	Model	Engine		Swing arm frame
		<i>Direct</i>	<i>Battery</i>	
1956	D3	BD3-10401	BD3B-12801	CD3-101
1957	D3	BD3-	BD3B-	CD3-
1958	D5	ED5-101	ED5B-101	FD5-101
1959	D7	ED7-101	ED7B-101	D7-101
1960	D7	ED7-1501	ED7B-7001	D7-8101
1961	D7	ED7-3001	ED7B-15501	D7-18401
1962	D7	ED7-4501	ED7B-23001	D7-27450
1963	D7	ED7-5505	ED7B-26904	D7-33268
	D7 (Police)		ED7BP-26904	D7-33268
	D7A (USA)	ED7A-5505	ED7BA-26904	D7-33268
	D7 (Trail)	ED7-5505		D7-33268T
1964	D7	ED7-6887	FD7-101	D7-38400
	D7 (USA)	ED7A-6887	FD7A-101	D7-38400
	D7 (Trail)	ED7-6887		D7-38400
1965	D7	ED7-9001	FD7-3001	D7-42878
1966	D7 (de luxe)	FD7-101	FD7-9076	D7-49855 to 51960; GD7-101 to 8616
	D7 Silver	FD7-101	FD7-10127	D7-51320 to 51960; GD7-101 to 8616

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Bantam

Year	Model	Engine	Swing arm frame
1967	D10	D10-101	D10-101
	D10S Sports	D10A-101	D10A-101
	D10B Bushman	D10A-101	BD10A-101
1968	D14/4 Supreme	D13B-101 to 780	D13B-101
	D14/4S Sports	D13B-101 to 780	D13B-101S
	D14/4B Bushman	D13C-101 to 780	D13C-101B
	D14/4 Supreme	D14B-781	D14B-781
	D14/4S Sports	D14B-781	D14B-781S
	D14/4B Bushman	D14C-781	D14C-781B

C range

C10 and C11

Year	C10 engine	C11 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1946-47	XC10-101	XC11-101	XC10G-101 Girders XC10T-101 Telescopes	
1948	YC10-101	YC11-101	YC10-101	
1949	ZC10-101	ZC11-101	ZC10-101	
1950	ZC10-4001	ZC11-8001	ZC10-10001	
1951	ZC10-7001	ZC11-16001	ZC10-21001	ZC10S-101
	With four-speed gearbox			ZC10S4-101
1952	ZC10-10001	ZC11-25001	ZC10-29001	ZC10S-2601
	With four-speed gearbox			ZC10S4-2001
1953	BC10-101	BC11-101	BC10-101	BC10S-101
	With four-speed gearbox			BC10S4-101

C10L, C11G and C12

Year	Model	Engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1954	C10L	BC10L-101		BC10LS-101
	C11G	BC11G-101	BC11-101	BC11S-101
	C11G (4-speed)	BC11G-101	BC11R4-101	BC11S4-101
1955	C10L	BC10L-4001		BC10LS-4501
	C11G	BC11G-11501	BC11-801	BC11S-4001
	C11G (4-speed)	BC11G-11501	BC11R4-501	BC11S4-8001
1956	C10L	BC10L-7001		DC10S-101
	C12	BC11G-23001		EC12-101
				BC11S4-18001
1957	C10L	BC10L-		DC10S-
	C12	BC11G-		EC12-
1958	C12	BC11G-40001		EC12-16001

B range

B31 and B33

Year	B31 engine	B33 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1946	XB31-101		XB31-101	
1947	XB31-101	XB33-101	XB31-101	
1948	YB31-101	YB33-101	YB31-101	
1949	ZB31-101	ZB33-101	ZB31-101	ZB31S-101
1950	ZB31-9001	ZB33-4001	ZB31-9001	ZB31S-5001
1951	ZB31-15001	ZB33-7001	ZB31-14001	ZB31S-10001
1952	ZB31-21001	ZB33-11001	ZB31-19001	ZB31S-17001
1953	BB31-101	BB33-101	BB31-101	BB31S-101
1954	BB31-6001	BB33-2001	BB31-1386	BB31S-5895
	BB31-6001	BB33-2001		CB31-101
1955	BB31-15001	BB33-5001		BB31S-12001
	BB31-15001	BB33-5001		CB31-6001

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B range

B31 and B33

Year	B31 engine	B33 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1956	BB31-22001	BB33-7301		EB31-101
1957	BB31-	BB33-		EB31-
1958	GB31-101	GB33-101		FB31-101
1959	GB31-1909	GB33-662		FB31-2572
1960		GB33-1001		GB33-101

B32 and B34

Year	B32 engine	B34 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1946	XB32-101		XB31-101	
1947	XB32-101	XB34-101	XB31-101	
1948	YB32-101	YB34-101	YB31-101	
1949	ZB32-101	ZB34-101	ZB31-101	
1950	ZB32-3001	ZB34-2001	ZB31-9001	ZB31S-5001
Alloy	ZB32A-3001	ZB34A-2001	ZB31-9001	ZB31S-5001
1951	ZB32-4001	ZB34-3001	ZB31-14001	ZB31S-10001
Alloy	ZB32A-4001	ZB34A-3001	ZB31-14001	ZB31S-10001
1952	ZB32-5001	ZB34-4001	ZB31-19001	ZB31S-17001
Alloy	ZB32A-5001		ZB31-19001	ZB31S-17001
Sand cast		ZB34A-4001	ZB31-19001	ZB31S-17001
Diecast		ZB34A-5001	ZB31-19001	ZB31S-17001
1953	BB32A-101	BB34A-101	BB31-101	BB31S-101
1954	BB32A-201	BB34A-201	BB32R-12	CB31-101
1955	BB32A-251	BB34A-301	BB32A-201	
1956	BB32A-301	BB34A-351		CB34-101
1957	BB32A-	BB34A-		CB34-

Gold Star B32 and B34

Year	B32 engine	B34 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1949	ZB32GS-101	ZB34GS-101	ZB31-101	ZB32S-101
1950	ZB32GS-2001	ZB34GS-2001	ZB31-9001	ZB32S-2001
1951	ZB32GS-3001	ZB34GS-3001	ZB31-14001	ZB32S-3001
1952	ZB32GS-4001		ZB31-19001	ZB32S-4001
Clubman	ZB32GS-6001		ZB31-19001	ZB32S-4001
Sand cast		ZB34GS-4001	ZB31-19001	ZB32S-4001
Diecast		ZB34GS-5001	ZB31-19001	ZB32S-4001
1953	BB32GS-101	BB34GS-101	BB31-101	BB32S-101
	BB32GS-101	BB34GS-101		BB32A-101 (Swing arm)
1954	BB32GS-1001	BB34GS-1001		CB32-101
	CB32GS-101	CB34GS-101		CB32-101
Daytona		BB34GSD-101	CB32D-101	
1955	BB32GS-2001	BB34GS-2001		CB32-1501
	CB32GS-501	CB34GS-501		CB32-1501
	DB32GS-101	DB34GS-101		CB32-4001
1956		DB34GS-501	BB32R-301	

Year	B32 engine	B34 engine	B34 DBD engine	Spring frame
1956	DB32GS-501	DB34GS-501	DBD34GS-2001	CB32-4001
1957	DB32GS-	DB34GS-	DBD34GS-2963	CB32-
1958			DBD34GS-3001	CB32-7001

Year	B32 engine	B34 engine	Spring frame	Catalina frame
1959	DB32GS-1501	DBD34GS-3753	CB32-7873	CB32C-101
1960	DB32GS-1601	DBD34GS-4601	CB32-8701	CB32C-351
1961	DB32GS-1741	DBD34GS-5684	CB32-10101	CB32C-601
1962	DB32GS-1794	DBD34GS-6504	CB32-11001	CB32C-741
1963		DBD34GS-6881	CB32-11451	CB32C-857

Note: Catalina models used 499 cc engine only.

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M range

Year	M20 engine	M21 engine	M33 engine	Rigid frame	Spring frame
1946-47	XM20-101	XM21-101		XM20-101	
1948	YM20-101	YM21-101	YM33-101	YM20-101	
1949	ZM20-101	ZM21-101	ZM33-101	ZM20-101	
1950	ZM20-4001	ZM21-5001	ZM33-3001	ZM20-7001	
1951	ZM20-6001	ZM21-8001	ZM33-4001	ZM20-10001	ZM20S-101
1952	ZM20-10001	ZM21-10001	ZM33-5001	ZM20-14001	ZM20S-301
1953	BM20-101	BM21-101	BM33-101	BM20-101	BM20S-101
1954	BM20-1001	BM21-1601	BM33-501	BM20-1502	BM20S-1192
1955	BM20-2501	BM21-4501	BM33-1301	BM20-4001	BM20S-4001
1956		BM21-7501	BM33-2101	BM20-7001	BM20S-8001
1957		BM21-	BM33-	BM20-	BM20S-
1958		BM21-11001		BM20-10001	BM20S-11001
1959		BM21-12033		BM20-10313	BM20S-12031
1960		BM21-12901		BM20-10451	BM20S-12031
1961		BM21-14301			BM20S-14201
1962		BM21-15453			BM20S-15061
1963		BM21-15588			BM20S-15159

Note: For 1961-63 some M21 engines had an alternator fitted. Where this was done a letter A was added to the engine number prefix.

C15 range

Year	C15 engine	SS80 engine	Frame
1959	C15-101		C15-101
1960	C15-11001		C15-11101
1961	C15-21251		C15-22001
		C15SS-101	C15-27644
1962	C15-29839	C15SS-1101	C15-31801
1963	C15-41807	C15SS-2705	C15-38035
1964	C15D-101	C15SS-3633	C15-42211
1965	C15F-101	C15FSS-101	C15-45501

		Sportsman engine	
1966	C15F-2089	C15FSS-2001	C15-49001
1967	C15G-101		C15G-101
		C15SG-101	C15SG-101

C15 competition range

Year	C15S engine	C15T engine	Frame
1959	C15S-101	C15T-101	C15S-101
1960	C15S-301	C15T-301	C15S-501
1961	C15S-2112	C15T-1056	C15S-2701
1962	C15S-3101		C15S-3601
		C15T-1451	C15S-10001
1963	C15S-4001	C15T-2001	C15C-101
1964	C15S-4373	C15T-2116	C15C-853
1965	C15FS-101	C15FT-101	C15C-1601

Other C15 models

Year	C15 USA engine	C15 police engine	Frame
1963	C15B-409	C15P-41807	C15-38035
1964	C15DB-101	C15DP-101	C15-42211
1965	C15FB-101	C15FP-101	C15-45501
1967		C15PG-101	C15PG-101

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Year	Pastoral engine	C15 Racer	Frame
1963	C15T-1602		C15A-137
		C15R-101	C15S-4123
1964	C15T-2116		C15E-101
1965	C15FT-101		C15E-136

Year	C15 Starfire	C15 Trials Cat	Frame
1963	C15-41807		C15C-101
1964	C15SR-225		C15C-853
1965	C15FSR-101	C15FT-101	C15C-1601

B40, C25, B25 and B44 ranges

Year	B40 engine	SS90 engine	Frame
1961	B40-101		B40-101
1962	B40-3601	B40BSS-101	B40-3511
1963	B40-4506	B40SS-180	B40-5017
1964	B40-5275	B40SS-426	B40-6668
1965	B40F-101	B40FSS-101	B40-7775
1966	B40F-1149		B40-9973
	B40G-101		B40-9973
1967	B40G-201		B40G-201

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Model	Year	Engine	Frame
B40 (USA)	1963	B40B-563	B40-5017
B40 (Police)	1964	B40P-5275	B40-6668
	1965	B40FP-101	B40-7775
B40 Super Star	1964	B40B-1088	B40-6668
B40 Sportsman	1965	B40FB-101	B40-7775
B40 Enduro Star	1964	B40T-143	C15C-853
	1965	B40FE-101	C15C-1601
B40 Rough Rider	1969	HCB40-462M	HCB40-462M
C25	1967	C25-101	C25-101
B25	1967	C25-101	B25-101
	1968	B25B-101	B25B-101
B44GP	1966	B44-101	B44-101
	1967	B44-131	B44-267
B44VE	1966	B44E-101	C15C-3137
	1967	B44EA-101	B44EA-101
B44VR	1967	B44R-101	B44R-101
B44SS	1968	B44B-101	B44B-101SS
B44VS	1968	B44B-101	B44B-101VS

Semi- and pre-unit twins

Year	A7 engine	A7ST engine	A10 engine	Rigid frame	Plunger frame
1947	XA7-101			XA7-101	
1948	YA7-101			YA7-101	
1949	ZA7-101	ZA7S-101		ZA7-101	ZA7S-101
1950	ZA7-7001	ZA7S-4001	ZA10-101	ZA7-4001	ZA7S-6001
1951	AA7-101	AA7S-101	ZA10-4001	ZA7-6001	ZA7S-14001
1952	AA7-5001	AA7S-1001	ZA10-12001	ZA7-8001	ZA7S-26001
1953	BA7-101	BA7S-101	BA10-101	BA7-101	BA7S-101
1954	BA7-2001	BA7S-2001	BA10-7001		BA7S-8950
1955			BA10-11001		BA7S-15001
1956			BA10-14001		BA7S-18001
1957			BA10-16036 (Last)		BA7S-20289

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Year	A7 engine	A7SS engine	A10 engine	A10RR engine	Swing arm frame
1954	CA7-101	CA7SS-101	CA10-101	CA10R-101	CA7-101
1955	CA7-1501	CA7SS-501	CA10-4501	CA10R-601	CA7-7001
1956	CA7-2701	CA7SS-2301	CA10-8001	CA10R-2001	EA7-101
1957	CA7-	CA7SS-	CA10-	CA10R-	EA7-
1958	CA7-5001	CA7SS-4501	DA10-651	CA10R-6001	FA7-101
1959	CA7-5867	CA7SS-5425	DA10-4616	CA10R-8193	FA7-8522
1960	CA7-7101	CA7SS-6701	DA10-7801	DA10R-101	GA7-101
1961	CA7-8501	CA7SS-8001	DA10-13201	DA10R-3001	GA7-11101
1962	CA7-9714	CA7SS-9277	DA10-17181	DA10R-5958	GA7-21120
1963			DA10-17727	DA10R-8197	GA7-23643

Note: From 1961 some engines were fitted with an alternator and the engine number prefix would then have a letter A added to it. From 1958 the sports A10 model was the A10SR.

A10 Super Flash, Spitfire and RGS

Year	Engine	SF frame	Spitfire frame	RGS frame
1953	BA10S-101	BA10-101		
1954	BA10S-701	BA10S-701		
1959	CA10SR-776		FA7A-101	
1960	DA10SR-101		GA7A-101	
1961	DA10SR-401		GA7A-401	
1962	DA10R-5958		GA7A-536	GA10-101
1963	DA10R-8197		GA7A-748	GA10-390
Last RGS	DA10R-10388			GA10-1914

Unit twins

Model	1962	1963	1964	1965
A50	A50-101	A50-823	A50A-101	A50A-686
A50 (Police)			A50AP-101	A50AP-121
A65	A65-101	A65-1947	A65A-101	A65A-1134
A65 (Police)			A65AP-101	A65AP-267
A65R			A65B-101	A65B-334
A65R (Rev-counter)			A65C-101	A65C-1082
A65T/R			A65B-101	
Model above frame	A50-101	A50-2288	A50-5501	A50-8437
Above rod brake	A50A-101	A50-2701		
Model below frame			A50B-101	A50B-4001
A50C (USA)			A50B-101	A50D-101
A65L/R			A65D-101	A65D-1742
A65SH			A65E-101	A65E-701
A50CC (USA)				A50B-507
A50C and A50CC (UK)				A50DC-101
A65L and A65LC				A65DC-2158

Model	1966	1967	1968	1969
A50 Royal Star	A50R-101	A50RA-101	A50RB-101	A50RC-101
A50 Wasp	A50W-101	A50WA-101	A50WB-101	
A65 Thunderbolt	A65T-101	A65TA-101	A65TB-101	A65TC-101
A65 Lightning	A65L-101	A65LA-101	A65LB-101	A65LC-101
A65 Hornet	A65H-101	A65HA-101		
A65 Firebird			A65FB-101	A65FC-101
A65 Spitfire	A65S-101	A65SA-101	A65SB-101	
Frame number	A50C-101	As engine	As engine	As engine

What Year Is It?

1969 and later

From 1969 on, a new coding system was used with a two-letter prefix for the month and model season year, followed by the model code and a serial number. This last began each year at 00101 and ran on irrespective of the machine it went on. The model season year ran from August to July.

The first letter was the month and the code was:

A	January	E	May	K	September
B	February	G	June	N	October
C	March	H	July	P	November
D	April	J	August	X	December

The second letter was the model year and the code was:

C	August 1968 to July 1969
D	August 1969 to July 1970
E	August 1970 to July 1971
G	August 1971 to July 1972
H	August 1972 to July 1973

Model codes were:

1969-70	D175, D175B, B25S, B44SS, B44VS, A50R, A65T, A65L, A65F, A75
1971	D175, B25SS, B25T, A65FS
1971-72	B50SS, B50T, A65T, A65L, A75, A75V
1971-73	B50MX
1972	A70L

Scooters

Year	Single engine	Twin engine	Frame
1959		W101	101B
1960	S-101	W3201	4001
1961	S-6720	W11790	18800B
1962	S-11407	W17800	30140B
1963	S-12498	W18485	31825B
1964	S-13263		33661B
1965	S-13576		34300B

Note: Electric start twins had letter E added to engine number.

Dandy and Beagle

Year	Dandy engine	Dandy frame
1957	DSE-101	DS-101
1958	DSE-11001	DS-11501
1959	DSE-14462	DS-15165
1960	DSE-17901	DS-18001
1961	DSE-21651	DS-21801
1962	DSE-22164	DS-22268

Year	Beagle engine	Beagle frame
1964	K1-101	K1-101
1965	K1-3507	K1-3315

Ariel Huntmaster

Year	Engine prefix
1954	PJ
1955	LF
1956	MLF
1957	NLF 2858
1958	CNLF 4230
1959	CNLF 5838
Last	CNLF 6073

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