

SPORTSTER 883

Viewing checklist / identity, records and condition

Seller / date / contact

Model designation / model year / registration

VIN / mileage / asking price

01 BEFORE TRAVELLING

- ☐ Match identity and V5C details; investigate imports and model-year differences.
- ☐ Read MOT history. Resolve mileage discrepancies and recurring advisories.
- ☐ Check finance, theft and write-off history through a suitable provider.
- ☐ Search recalls by model/year; ask a dealer for VIN-specific repair evidence.
- ☐ Request service invoices, correct manual, modification list and both keys/fobs.

02 AT THE MOTORCYCLE

- ☐ Arrange a cold start. Refer unexplained warning lights or running faults for diagnosis.
- ☐ Inspect rocker-box joints for fresh oil; ask about earlier repairs and engine work.
- ☐ Ask whether the clutch spring plate is original or replaced; request invoices.
- ☐ Ask a specialist to check clutch operation, belt/pulleys, mounts and stabiliser links.
- ☐ Check tyre condition, brakes, fork leaks, corrosion and accessory wiring.
- ☐ Check physical fit with assistance. Confirm entitlement and cover before any road test.

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Decision sheet / costs, evidence and next steps

03 COMPARE COSTS BEFORE AGREEING A PRICE

Comparable listing / year / mileage / asking price

Next service and time-based work due / quote

Repairs required / mechanic / written quote

Insurance / security / other immediate costs

Purchase ceiling / repair allowance

04 CONDITIONS TO RESOLVE BEFORE PURCHASE

- ☐ Modification and engine-conversion evidence checked with mechanic and insurer.
- ☐ Exact licence eligibility verified; any restriction documentation checked.
- ☐ Actual vehicle checked for ULEZ if needed; do not infer from registration year.
- ☐ Seller answers and agreed repairs recorded; copy of advert retained.

Unanswered questions / agreed action / deadline

OFFICIAL CHECKS AND FULL GUIDE

Used vehicle checks

<https://www.gov.uk/checks-when-buying-a-used-car>

MOT history

<https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history>

Motorcycle recalls

<https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-recall>

Full Sportster guide

<https://bikerjunctions.com/guides/used-harley-davidson-sportster-883/>