

NEW MAICOS FOR '81



A Reed Valve 250 And a 490cc Open Bike

Maico's '81 line consists of some minor and major refining of last year's components, and two new engines. Well, at least the top ends are new. The new 250 engine has reed induction at last. The system looks much like those used by Honda and Yamaha, with the reed block placed between the carburetor and cylinder, in the intake track. A 38mm Bing meters fuel. The other new engine, an earth-moving 490, has a long 86.5mm stroke and 83mm bore. A 40mm Bing feeds premix to the piston-ported cylinder.

A new primary drive chain design is used on '81 models. The triple and double row chains of past models have been replaced with two single row chains. Maico claims the two single chains last longer

than the duplex and triplex chains. The clutch and clutch basket are basically the same but made from lighter material.

Last year's radical new frame with a built-up main backbone and high steering head, has been dropped. The '81 frame still uses the backbone design but most other tubes have changed. The steering head has been lowered considerably and the 42mm forks have been shortened to compensate for the new geometry. The fork's sliders have been highly modified also. The leg is shorter at the top, strengthened around the seal and around the axle clamp. Travel remains 12.2 in. but the front of the bike is noticeably lower.

Shocks are still made by Corte and Cosso. The remote reservoirs have given way to piggyback designs and new damp-

ing and spring rates are used. Additionally, parts are available from Maico to make the damping and spring rate either stiffer or softer. Rear travel is 12.2 in.

A stronger front hub is used for '81, and both hubs have stronger spokes and new lace patterns. Tires are Metzlers.

Other small but significant changes are: a longer swing arm, elimination of the rear brake static arm, new airbox, better rear fenders and side plates, and better finish on the plastic gas tanks.

The good news for the Maico enduro rider for 1981 is; every thing mentioned above applies to the enduro line too! The '81 Enduro is an '81 motocrosser with rear frame loop, center stand, lights, larger rear fender, larger muffler, chain guard and bigger gas tank. 