

Esso Tiger Bike

In July of 2019 I attended the Pontiac Oakland Club International (POCI) Convention in Gettysburg, PA. At the conventions you always see something you never knew about before but this year's find was very unexpected. In the lobby of the hotel there was a bicycle that was allegedly a promo item sold by Esso Dealers in 1965 or 1966. The gold color was very reminiscent of my "Muscle Bike" I had as a kid. Mine was a Sears but was the same copper tone color. With the combination of petrolina, GTO Tiger, and the youth bike tie ins I had to get one. I begged the owner to sell it but he wasn't ready to let it go.



Bike at 2019 POCI Convention – note incorrect seat, chain guard, and sissy bar. I may have to add the taller bar to mine though!

I was able to do some research and found that the Tiger Bikes were built from AMF Renegades. Sears may have also been built from AMF but I need to research that some more. I found a very good pic of an original on the internet. As you can see the original has no fenders, a very flat seat, and the Renegade chain guard. Armed with some info and a couple of eBay saved searches, the hunt was on. In March of 2020 I found a Renegade thru a Facebook group but it had no tiger seat. In June I bought a seat on eBay so I went back as was able to get the bike. The seat is a Troxel and is correct for a Sears but is too curved for a Tiger. I already had a couple of sets of handgrips and MANY tiger tails so all the parts were in place. The picture below is the bike as of 7/22/2020. Still need a flatter seat, probably should remove the fenders, and a Tony the Tiger "Growler" would be a great add on accessory. Time will tell! (Also would love to find a copper tone Sears Spyder!)



Internet Pic



Esso Tiger Bike 7/22/2020



Rear View



“Tony Growler” – on the hunt for one of these!