

# Shooting hares: RGS dates

The details I give from the Despatch Books are frequently challenged by folk who quote from data they have found in 'the books'.

I don't know where the authors obtained the details they have published but in many cases it is not from the BSA Despatch Books.

One authoritative source I have just looked at gives the 1962 Rocket Gold Star engine sequence beginning at DA10R 5958 and frame GA10 101. 101 – yes; but no Rocket Gold Stars were despatched with DA10R engines in the 5900 sequence. The same source gives the 1963 bikes as starting at DA10R 8197 and frame GA10 390. DA10R 8197 was not fitted in a Rocket Gold Star [so I don't understand why that number was selected: 8186 was despatched as a Rocket Gold Star on 7 November 1962] and GA10 390 was despatched on 5 September 1962.

As BSA regarded the model year as beginning in the autumn of the year before the chronological year after the summer shutdown, I suppose any bike produced from September 1962 on was a '1963' model.

To me 1962 is 1962 and 1963 is 1963.

The first frame used was GA10 101 and the last in the Despatch Book is GA10 1898. There are numerous 'No Entry' in the frame column especially after GA10 1660 so nowhere near 1797 Rocket Gold Stars were produced.

The first engine used was the only DA10R 6700-sequence to be pulled off the line; all the others are in the 6900-sequence on up to the 10300 engines.

I hope that the following enables folk to date a Rocket Gold Star fairly accurately.

However, there are strays which are out of sequence; for example, GA10 724 is recorded as despatched to Earls Court as a show-bike on 7 November 1962 and presumably cherished at the factory till it was sold to Eddie Dow on 26 July 1963 – chronologically one of the last to be despatched. Similarly, GA10 725 was another Earls Court show-bike sent there on 25 November 1962 and kept at the factory till sold to Dow on 25 July 1963. GA10 501 was despatched to C & D Autos, Birmingham, on 23 July 1962 but reappears as being despatched a second time but to J Lawrence, Bloxwich, on 12 August 1963 – another of the very last. Presumably it had been returned [though there is no entry for this] and kept under covers at the factory till someone decided to clear out all the Rocket Gold Stars that had been secreted away – at least 3! GA10 759 may be another hidden at the factory as numerically it should have been despatched in November 1962 but is entered in the Despatch Book as going to Wyverns of Weston super Mare on 9 May 1963.

**In the table** the number in brackets denotes how many frames in that sequence were despatched in that month: in June 1962 only one GA10 frame in the 7000-sequence was used for a Rocket Gold Star.

<b>1962</b>	<b>GA10 FRAME SEQUENCE</b>	<b>DA10R ENGINE SEQUENCE</b>
February	101	6700
March	NONE	NONE
April	102 - 171	6900 - 7000
May	112 - 301	7000 - 7100 - 7200 - 7300
June	114 - 352	7000[1] - 7100 - 7200 - 7300 - 7400 - 7500 - 7600
July	125 - 598	7000[1] - 7400 - 7500 - 7600 - 7700 - 7800 - 7900
August	289 - 637	7600 - 7700[1] - 7800 - 7900
September	337 - 680	7900 - 8000 - 8100 - 8200
October	401 - 756	8000 - 8200 - 8300 - 8400 - 9200[1]
November	392 - 809	8000[1] - 8100[3] - 8200 - 8300 - 8400 - 8500 - 8600 - 8700
December	400 - 887	8400[1] - 8500[2] - 8600 - 8700 - 8800 - 8900
<b>1963</b>		
January	432 - 1015	8600[1] - 8700 - 8800 - 8900 - 9000 - 9100 - 9300[1]
February	419 - 1250	8700[1] - 9000 - 9100 - 9200 - 9300 - 9400 - 9500[3] - 9800[1] - 10200[1]
March	907 - 1526	9000[1] - 9100[1] - 9200 - 9300 - 9400 - 9500 - 9600 - 10200[2]
April	1300 - 1556	9500 - 9600 - 9700 - 9800
May	759 - 1630	8200[1] - 9200[1] - 9300[1] - 9800 - 9900 - 10000 - 10100
June	1045 - 1736	9200[2] - 9900[1] - 10000 - 10100 - 10200 - 10300
July	1025 - 1801	10000[1] - 10100 - 10200 - 10300
August	1748 - 1804	10200[1] - 10300
September	1753 - 1898	10000[1] - 10200[1] - 10300
October	1867 - 1876	10200[2]