SOFTWARE & TECH

Suzuki Ozark 250

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795581725109640

Introduction: Remembering a Lightweight Utility Legend

For ATV enthusiasts who cut their teeth in the early 2000s, few machines evoke the same fond memories as the Suzuki Ozark 250. While big-bore sport quads and heavy utility machines often steal the spotlight, the Ozark carved out a unique niche as an approachable, dependable, and surprisingly capable mid-size utility ATV. It was never the flashiest or the fastest, but it earned a reputation for being a workhorse that would start on the first pull even after sitting all winter. This article takes an in-depth look at the Suzuki Ozark 250, exploring its specifications, performance, reliability, riding experience, and lasting appeal in today's used-ATV market.

Overview of the Suzuki Ozark 250

Introduced in the early 2000s, the Suzuki Ozark 250 was designed to bridge the gap between youth quads and full-size adult machines. With a 250cc air-cooled, four-stroke engine, it offered a manageable powerband ideal for beginners, younger riders, and adults looking for a light utility quad for farm chores or trail riding. The Suzuki Ozark 250 was essentially a smaller, lighter alternative to the larger Suzuki KingQuad series. It featured a fully automatic CVT transmission with reverse, push-button electric start, and a rugged steel frame. Over its production run, the Ozark remained largely unchanged, a testament to a solid original design that didn't need major updates. Production ceased around 2015, but many well-maintained examples are still in use today.

Key Specifications and Features

Let's break down the core specs that define the Suzuki Ozark 250:

- Engine: 249cc, air-cooled, 4-stroke single cylinder (SOHC).
- Transmission: Fully automatic CVT with high/low range and reverse.
- Starting System: Electric start with kick-start backup.
- Suspension (Front): Independent double wishbone with 5.9 inches of travel.
- Suspension (Rear): Swingarm with single shock; 6.1 inches of travel.
- Brakes (Front): Dual hydraulic discs.
- Brakes (Rear): Single hydraulic disc.
- Tires: 21x7-10 front / 22x10-10 rear.
- Ground Clearance: 8.1 inches (excellent for its class).
- Curb Weight: Approximately 440 pounds (200 kg) – very light for a utility quad.
- Fuel Capacity: 3.8 gallons (14.4 liters).
- Rack Capacity: Front 66 lbs, Rear 132 lbs.

These figures highlight why the Suzuki Ozark 250 was so well-liked. It was light enough for a teen to handle yet sturdy enough for light utility work. The 8.1 inches of ground clearance was generous, allowing the quad to traverse rough terrain without constant scraping. The dual front disc brakes provided confident stopping power, a notable upgrade over cheaper machines that used single discs or drums.

Engine Performance and Reliability

The engine of the Suzuki Ozark 250 is a simple, air-cooled unit that prioritizes torque over peak horsepower. With around 16 to 18 horsepower at the crank, it won't win drag races against 400cc quads. However, the CVT transmission delivers power smoothly, making the Ozark feel punchy off the line. The low-range reduction gear is ideal for towing small trailers or crawling through mud and steep inclines.

Reliability is where this engine truly shines. The air-cooled design eliminates the risk of radiator damage in rough terrain, and the engine is known to run for thousands of miles with routine oil and filter changes. Many owners report clocking over 5,000 miles without internal repairs. The electric starter is robust, and the kick-start backup is a lifesaver when the battery dies. Common issues are minor: occasionally, the CVT belt wears out after heavy use, and the idle jet in the carburetor can clog if the quad sits for months. Overall, the Suzuki Ozark 250's powertrain is legendary for its durability.

Riding Experience and Handling

At under 450 pounds wet, the Suzuki Ozark 250 feels nimble and flickable. It's one of the easiest full-size ATVs to maneuver, making it an excellent choice for tight trails, wooded paths, and yard work. The suspension, though not plush, is well-damped for its era. Independent front suspension keeps the front wheels planted during cornering, and the rear swingarm provides decent traction during acceleration. The seat is wide and comfortable for hours of riding.

The handling is predictable and confidence-inspiring, with no surprises. Tipping point is higher than heavy machines, but the light weight also means it's easy to pick up if you do tip. Steering effort is low, and the turning radius is tight. It's not a high-speed handling machine; comfortable cruising speed is around 25-30 mph, with a top speed near 45 mph. That's more than enough for most recreational users.

For a utility perspective, the Suzuki Ozark 250 can tow a small cart or carry moderate loads on its racks. The relatively small rack capacity (132 lb rear) means you won't be hauling firewood, but it's perfect for tools, camp gear, or a cooler. The chassis is durable; the steel frame holds up against frame flex, though after a decade, catch corrosion if kept outside without care.

Maintenance and Common Issues

Owners love the Suzuki Ozark 250 for its low maintenance requirements. Essential maintenance tasks include:

1. Oil changes: Every 20-30 hours of operation with SAE 10W-40 motorcycle oil.
2. Air filter cleaning: Frequently if riding in dusty conditions.
3. CVT belt inspection: Replace every 2-3 years or if slipping occurs.
4. Valve adjustments: Check every 2,000 miles (shim-style, simple for a mechanic).
5. Battery maintenance: Use a trickle charger during storage.

Common issues that surface on older machines include:

- Stale fuel causing carburetor gumming — easy fix with cleaning.
- Worn starter motor bushings after heavy use.
- Cracked plastic fenders if dropped hard (plastics are thin).
- Striking rear disc brake; pads are cheap and easy to replace.
- Rust on the exhaust pipe if exposed to salt/chemicals.

Overall, the Ozark 250 is easy to work on at home. Parts availability remains strong due to shared components with other Suzuki ATVs and aftermarket support.

Suzuki Ozark 250 vs. Competitors

When it was new, the Suzuki Ozark 250 competed directly with machines like the Honda Recon 250, Yamaha Big Bear 250, and Kawasaki Lakota 250. Compared to the Honda Recon, the Ozark offered slightly more suspension travel and better ground clearance. Against the Yamaha Big Bear, the Ozark felt lighter and sportier. The Kawasaki Lakota was a more aggressive sport-utility quad, but the Suzuki had a more comfortable seat and easier CVT operation.

In today's used market, the Suzuki Ozark 250 often holds its value better than some competitors because of its legendary reliability and simplicity. The Recon is also reliable but can be harder to find in good condition. The Ozark's availability of parts and extensive online forums make ownership less daunting. For a budget-conscious buyer looking for a first ATV or a light-duty trail machine, the Ozark is hard to beat. It doesn't have power steering, EFI, or any modern rider aids, but that is part of its charm.

Is the Suzuki Ozark 250 Still Worth Buying Today?

Absolutely — but with some caveats. If you are an experienced rider seeking high performance or heavy hauling, the 250cc engine will feel underpowered. However, for the target audience of beginners, teens, smaller adults, or anyone wanting a simple, reliable ATV for light recreation and chores, the Suzuki Ozark 250 remains an excellent choice. Used examples can be found from $2,000 to $3,500 depending on condition, year, and location. Avoid units with heavy rust, neglected maintenance, or, especially, rebuilt engines without records.

Look for signs of care: clean air filter, fresh oil, tight bearings, and original plastics with no major cracks. A well-maintained Ozark can easily provide another decade of service. It's also a great machine to learn on — forgiving, easy to work on, and cheap to operate.

Conclusion: A Simple, Trustworthy Classic

The Suzuki Ozark 250 never made headlines for horsepower or innovation. Instead, it quietly built a reputation as one of the most dependable, user-friendly ATVs ever produced. Its lightweight chassis, torquey yet economical engine, and no-nonsense engineering give it a timeless appeal. In an age of complex, expensive four-wheelers, the Ozark stands out as a machine that puts fun and function ahead of flash. Whether you are buying your first quad or adding a lightweight runabout to your fleet, the Suzuki Ozark 250 deserves serious consideration. It may be a relic of a simpler era, but that simplicity is exactly what makes it so enduring.

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#suzuki • #ozark • #250

DIGITAL EDITION

suzuki-ozark-250

DIGITAL EDITION

suzuki-ozark-250

DIGITAL EDITION

suzuki-ozark-250