



You could say that Bill VanTichelt, the founder and creator of VanTech Motorcycles, began his quest for building a better off road bike when he decided to modify his off road race bike, a 1950 350cc Velocette MAC Single. Bill later graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1956 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. In 1960, after working in the aerospace industry, he started VanTech Engineering along with dad, Bill Sr.

VanTech began making kart parts which lead to the creation of the first VanTech production motorcycles in 1964: a Trials 80 bike and a Classic Scrambler. These small displacement engine dirt bikes were off the hook; flying past everything in their class. Bill also designed frames for larger cc engines. At the time, VanTech was the only other motorcycle manufacturer in America aside from Harley Davidson.



In the fall of 1966, Bill created his first motorcycle conversion kit (a first of its kind idea which let the rider create the bike he wanted using his own engine and wheels) and later that year, joined forces with Grant Industries (famous for their piston rings and steering wheels) to produce the Grant-VanTech Conversion Kits.

While at Grant, in addition to the conversion kits, Bill was instrumental helping to create the first Grant injection molded helmets, including creating machinery to test helmet strength at high velocities (he even sold some of his machines directly to General Electric).

In 1968, the Grant-VanTech Conversion Kits were acquired by Roehr Bros. and became Roehr-VanTech. The Roehr-VanTech kits continued to be popular both on and off the race track until Roehr Bros. ceased to exist in 1973. Bill's dream of building a better motorcycle, left an indelible mark on the history of American made motorcycles.

For more in depth information: www.vantechmotorcycles.com