

2021 KTM 250 SX-F

KTM's 250 four-stroke has got it all

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2021 KTM 250 SX-F *KTM*

Ups

- Most-in-class peak horsepower
- Nimble and lightweight handling
- Well-tuned suspension settings
- Best-in-class brakes

Downs

- Less low-end power than class-leading Yamaha YZ250F

- Wider-than-usual handlebar

Verdict

Raw horsepower and leading torque figures, a proven chassis, and improved suspension settings make the 250 SX-F a well-rounded racebike right out of the box.



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Overview

As winner of *Dirt Rider's* Best Motocross Shootout for two consecutive years ([2019](#) and [2020](#)), the KTM 250 SX-F was bound to stoke the fires of competition, and so it did. While the Yamaha YZ250F took first place for [2021's shootout](#), the [KTM](#) still followed closely behind [taking second](#). Its strong and fast engine, nimble handling, tunable suspension, light weight, and excellent brakes continue to serve this machine well. Its high-rpm powerband makes it a suitable ride for intermediate and pro-level riders.

Updates for 2021

New inlay graphics, improved WP Xact air fork and WP Xact shock, along with the addition of new low-friction linkage bearing seals made by SKF are the updates seen for the 2021 model.



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Pricing and Variants

The KTM 250 SX-F is available for an MSRP of \$9,299, \$1,000 more than the YZ250F and Kawasaki KX250, but \$100 cheaper than the Husqvarna FC 250.

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Powertrain: Engine, Transmission, and Performance

The KTM 250 SX-F is powered by the same liquid-cooled, DOHC, 250cc four-stroke engine as its counterpart, the Husqvarna FC 250. In measuring the machine's rear wheel power figures for the five-bike comparison, the SX-F produced the highest horsepower figures and second highest torque numbers: 41.1 hp at 13,700 rpm and 19.1 pound-feet of torque at 9,100 rpm.

While the engine doesn't produce the strongest low-end power, it excels in seemingly endless top-end pull. Contributing to its low-end power performance and rpm recovery characteristics is the bike's long gear ratios.

Handling



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The SX-F's proven chassis and light 232-pound weight make it easily maneuverable on the track. Stability at speed and corners, effortless cornering while standing, and narrow bodywork are notable praises we attributed to the model in the shootout.

Brakes

The braking system on the SX-F is top of the class. The Brembo brakes with 290mm and 220mm discs, front and rear, provide a ton of braking power that quickly brings the machine to a stop.

Fuel Economy and Real-world MPG

Mile-per-gallon figures are currently unavailable.



Ergonomics: Comfort and Utility

Although test riders would prefer to swap out the wider-than-usual Neken handlebars, this did contribute to a large and roomy cockpit. The bike received praise for its comfortable seat and excellent ODI lock-on grips.

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Electronics

Traction control, launch control, and handlebar map selection are among the electronics featured on KTM's four-stroke.

Warranty and Maintenance Coverage

The Austrian brand offers a 30-day limited warranty.

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Quality

As a top performer in the past and present, the 2021 KTM 250 SX-F continues to be a high-quality four-stroke machine with a quality engine, chassis, and suspension package with a price to match.



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2021 KTM 250 SX-F Claimed Specifications

MSRP:	\$9,299
Engine:	250cc, DOHC, liquid-cooled single-cylinder four-stroke
Bore x Stroke:	78.0 x 52.3mm
Transmission/Final Drive:	5-speed/chain
Fuel Delivery:	Keihin electronic fuel injection w/ 44mm throttle bodies
Clutch:	Wet, multiple disc, Brembo hydraulic actuation
Engine Management/Ignition:	Keihin EMS
Frame:	Central double-cradle chromoly steel
Front Suspension:	48mm USD WP Xact AER fork, fully adjustable; 12.2 in. travel
Rear Suspension:	WP Xact shock, fully adjustable; 11.8 in. travel
Front Brake:	Brembo 2-piston caliper, 260mm disc

MSRP:	\$9,299
Rear Brake:	Brembo 1-piston caliper, 220mm disc
Wheels, Front/Rear:	Spoked wheels w/ Excel rims; 21 x 1.60 in.; 19 x 2.15 in.
Tires, Front/Rear:	80/100-21 / 110/90-19
Rake/Trail:	26.1°/N/A
Wheelbase:	58.5 in.
Ground Clearance:	14.6 in.
Seat Height:	37.4 in.
Fuel Capacity:	1.9 gal.
Wet Weight:	218 lb. (w/all fluids except fuel)
Contact:	ktm.com