

The Name Game

Russell Marlowe's Best Of Show Winner

Russell Marlowe's been around the bike scene a while — 20 years at least—so when this South Carolina builder says this “Has to be the coolest bike I've built in quite a while,” it's worth listening to and taking a look.



Del Laquire wandered into Russell's shop (Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles) in Kingsree, about 15 minutes west of Myrtle Beach, asking for a “Plain Jane” chopper. Russell had some thoughts about that. Never one to leave anything half finished, the bike Russell delivered about six months later is anything but a Plain Jane. It's a stretch to call this one a

chopper or even label it “old-school.” This one's in a class of its own.

When Del first came to RMCC he was looking for a chopper with a short front end. Russell thought that would look terrible. He quickly drew up something on a napkin, the kind of bike he had in mind—and this is it. Del wisely turned Russell loose. This one-of-a-kind vision

began with the frame and Russell put together as sweet a collection of tubes as you're likely to see. Since this bike was finished, RMCC has taken orders for 10 more with frames just like it.

Del was thinking of a shovelhead motor in the scooter but Russell changed his mind there, too. He convinced Del that a knuckle, would be a lot more

interesting. The brand-new Accurate Engineering 103 incher is certainly that, especially with its vintage SU carburetor and Morris magneto. Del also wanted a kickstart, but Russell talked him out of that as well. Kicking a 103-inch knuckle to life would get old fast, so this one has a right-side drive with a 6-speed electric start transmission.

The gas tank started out as a WCC Villain model, cut in half and re-bottomed. Now look for the oil tank. It's over on the primary side, sitting between the clutch basket and the front pulley and 3-D'd inside a 2-inch belt drive. How cool is that? The battery got tucked underneath the tranny. One of the big reasons Russell put that oil bag where it is

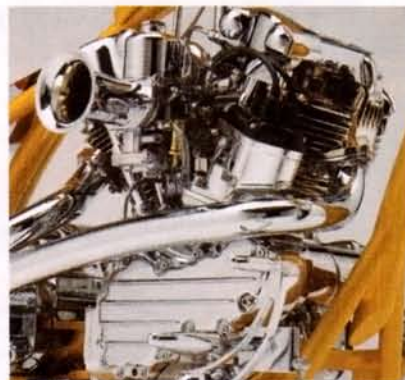
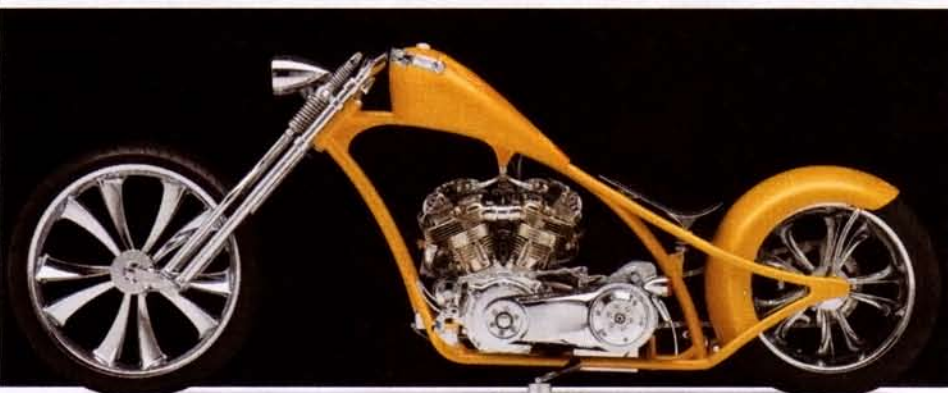
was to hide things as much as possible and, from a technical standpoint, the feed outlet is actually higher than the oil pump. The wheels are RMCC's Don Juan models and the look fits the bike perfectly. The brakes are RMCC's new 360s—the redesigned version. “They not only showcase the wheels, they also work great,” Russell says.



At first glance, it doesn't seem there's enough here to make this bike run. Rest assured this one does. That visual deception is a function of just how neatly everything's been done. The absence of axle caps is one example; everything just slides in from the bottom. And how about the speedometer? It's down between the transmission and the motor. From the saddle you glance down and it's right there. And getting really simple, the taillight is a Harley turn signal. With a dual-element bulb and a red lens, Russell says, "It's the brightest damn taillight I have ever put on a motorcycle."

So what do you call this one? A chopper? Old-school? Russell doesn't know and Del Laquire doesn't care. He just knows he has one of the cleanest, coolest bikes around. A name doesn't matter.

—Joe Kress



WINNER BEST OF SHOW AT THE EASYRIDERS CHARLOTTE BIKE SHOW

Owner: Del Laquire
City: South Carolina

GENERAL

Designer: Russell Marlowe
Fabrication: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Year/make: 2008 Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Model: HT 260
Assembly: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Time: 6 months
Chroming: Chrome Masters

ENGINE

Year: 2008 knucklehead
Make: Accurate Engineering
Displacement: 103 cubic inches
Ignition: ELC
Cam: Accurate Engineering
Carb: SU

Air cleaner: stack
Pipes: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles

TRANSMISSION

Year/make: 2008 Baker
Shifting: 6-speed

PAINTING

Painter: Jimmy Jackson
Color: Sunrise Yellow Pearl
Type: House of Kolor

FRAME

Year/make: 2008 Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Type: rigid
Rake: 40 degrees
Stretch: 3 inches

ACCESSORIES

Handlebars: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Handlebar controls: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Fenders: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Headlight: Headwinds
Taillight: Harley-Davidson
Speedo: Dakota Digital
Pegs: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Foot controls: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Gas tank: Russell Marlowe Custom Cycles
Oil tank: RMCC
Seat: Jeff Kimel

FRONT END

Type: springer
Builder: Jerry Springer

WHEELS

Make: Metalsport/
RMCC
Size: 23-inch front,
18-inch rear
Tires: Metzeler
Brakes:
RMCC New 360

PHOTOS:

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