

start me up

Tech Cycle was one of the first companies to produce four-speed and five-speed electric start kits for open primary Harley-Davidsons and has gone on to develop its product line to include high performance batteries, open primary belt drive systems, and engine components. AMD talks to company President Jason Bowman about 10 years in business

TECH CYCLE began in the aftermarket V-Twin industry 10 years ago when it developed its first electric start kit for Panhead motors. This line was so widely accepted in the industry that buyers started asking for more diverse products, and this led to the development of a whole range of replacement electric starters.



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Known as Tornado, the starter product range is now one of the most comprehensive available. As company President Jason Bowman says: "We pretty much have a system to fit anything out there."

The latest additions are replacements for '06 Dynas and all '07 model H-Ds. However, the company has not forgotten its roots and still produces units for '65-'88 model four- and five-speeds. Nor has the company buried its head in the sand with regard to other manufacturers and it makes replacement starters for Big Dog bikes as well as machines equipped with Baker Drop Starter Slam Clutch assemblies.

The 1.8kW Tornado starter has been created specifically for use on big inch motors where mounting space is limited. Tech Cycle claims the new starter has a greater stalling torque than its own 2.0kW starter, yet draws less amperage.

As the company's product line has grown, it invested in new equipment and now has two premises spread over 12,000sq.ft. with full CAD/CAM facilities which are also utilized in the production of other product lines. Given that the company made its name with starter motors, the most obvious move was to look to primary drives and clutch assemblies to create a complete package.

Talking about the introduction of the new lines Jason says: "The open primaries marked our move into the custom market." Part of that move included working with the late Indian Larry on some of his early Biker Build-Off bikes. A connection which the



The Tech Cycle facility in Pennel, Pennsylvania



The 1.8kW Tornado starter has been specifically designed for use on big inch motors where mounting space is limited



Twister Contoured one-piece motorplate from Tech Cycle is for use with four-speed transmissions



Clutch pulleys awaiting assembly into primary drives

company has continued, now working with Indian Larry Legacy on a signature line of open primaries, including the Paul Cox open chain primary.

Inspired by the Indian Larry Signature Series electric start kit, the Tech Cycle Twister Contoured one-piece motorplate for four-speed style transmissions combines the strength of a one-piece motorplate with the contoured look of its two-piece start. As with all of Tech Cycle's four-speed start kits, a Tornado starter is included.

This type of work is something which Tech Cycle is keen to expand into, as Jason explains: "We're looking to do more signature line work for people and we will do one-off work too. We are one of the few companies in this field who are willing to do one-offs."

However, the company is still at work developing new stock lines, including more OE H-D replacement

Twister Contoured five-speed motorplate combines the look of Tech Cycle's standard Twister electric start kits with the strength of a one-piece motorplate



The Cyclone open primary belt drive is available with optional mid-controls



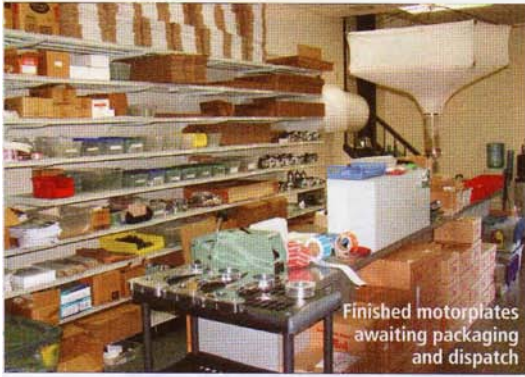
Tech Cycle is willing to undertake one-off custom work and small production runs



The latest Tech Cycle catalog includes details of products for 2007 H-D models

parts. "Harley seem to be regaining sales over custom builders and in response to this we are gearing up to produce direct replacement products," says Jason. He continues: "We see 2007 as a development year for FL and Bagger-specific parts. However, we already have an open belt drive system for FL models available."

The new Twister Contoured five-speed motorplate combines the look of Tech Cycle's standard Twister electric start kits with the strength of a one-piece motorplate. Designed from the ground up to work with Tech's Cyclone primary drive, the five-speed



Contoured motorplate offers a new look primary belt drive system.

Constructed from a single piece of 6061-T651 aluminum, it comes as standard with a ring gear, nose cone and jackshaft assembly and is available with a Tech Cyclone open primary belt drive system in 2in or 3in sizes.

Tech Cycle's Cyclone 2in open primary belt drive system utilizes the same design and full size clutch pack as its 3in system. The unit comes fully polished with newly designed, fully contoured outboard and motor plates, front bearing support and includes a 2in clutch finished in black hard-anodized. The Cyclone belt drives are now also offered in a wide range of options which includes the 1-3/4in belts and pulleys for use in enclosed drives.

Along with an increased range of starters and primaries for Baggers, Tech Cycle is now extending its product line to include mid-controls and pegs. Jason sees this as a natural move towards providing a complete replacement transmission package for Harley riders and gives more than a hint as to what will be coming out of the Tech Cycle shop in the future.

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Just a small selection of motorplates available from stock at Tech Cycle



The starter motor production line at Tech Cycle's facility