

Suicide 2

Worth Doing Over



The sparkling, root beer ride in front of you is one leg wettin' ground-up custom. Kirk and Lisa Taylor of Custom Design Studios in Novato, California, reconstituted this bike Kirk originally built more than 10 years ago. Back then they called it "Suicide."

Kirk tracked it down through three owners and managed to get it back on the slab. As you can see, today it is a kick-start only, foot clutch, suicide shift 4-speed, rigid retro scout with a generator-style motor built from hand-picked pieces. What else would you call it but "Suicide 2"? Just looking at it scares some folks, but Kirk claims it isn't so bad. "If you tickle her just right, she starts right up on the first kick."

For practical riding, Kirk said he

would prefer to go back to a hand clutch, foot shift setup since there are times in city traffic when it is better to have all the controls in the right place. With a reverse shift drum, finding neutral is always a hoot. "One back and three up!" Kirk says. "It's what the old timers were riding."

"Fab Kevin" made the Mopar-inspired pistol grip jockey shift arm and the webbed belt guard. Of course Kirk made sure to include his favorite boat trailer-style rear fender and CDS signature series Dog Dick taillight. Kirk enjoys incorporating some coolness from old hot rod cars into his bikes, so when he found a 2-part window knob from a 1951 Chevrolet Roadster that his dad made while in the Navy, Kirk thought it





would turn out to be the perfect stem
nut cover.

This month's Fox Hunt winner, the
beautiful Brandi, from sunny California,
loved the old-school lace incorporated
in the orange and root beer paintjob.
She couldn't wait to shuck her jeans to
straddle this pleasing pan.

—Con Queso





Owner: Kirk And Lisa Taylor
 City: Novato, California
 Fabrication: Custom Design Studios
 Model: Special Construction
 Time: 2 Months
 Chroming: Pilgram Polishing/Meclec

ENGINE
 Year/model: 1997/pan
 Displacement: 96 cubic inches
 Ignition: single-fire electronic ignition/
 distributor
 Cam: S&S
 Carb: S&S E with Thunder-jet
 Pipes: TT Thunderheader by
 Custom Design Studios

TRANSMISSION
 Year/make: 1997/bass-ackwards 4-speed
 Andrews/Cal Products
 Shifting: 1 back, 3 forward

PAINT
 Molding: Kirk and Anders
 Painter: Kirk Taylor
 Type/color: Dupont Hot Hues/
 Kandy Root Beer and orange
 Special paint: Kirk and Courtney

FRAME
 Year/make: 1997/Chopper Guys and
 Custom Design Studios
 Type: rigid
 Rake: 35 degrees
 Stretch: 11 1/2 inches
 Modifications: Custom Design Studios

ACCESSORIES
 Bars: 16-inch apes
 Handlebar controls: internal throttle-by
 Custom Design Studios
 Fenders: flat by Custom Design Studios
 Headlight: 5 1/4-inch Bates
 Taillight: Dog Dick by
 Custom Design Studios

Pegs: Knurled brass
 "Bung King" by
 Custom Design Studios
 Foot controls: Performance
 Machine
 Electrics: Custom Design
 Studios
 Gas tank: rubber-
 mounted King Sporty
 Oil tank: Exile
 Primary: tin outer/
 belt guard by Custom
 Design Studios
 Seat: Don Clancy
 Grips: Custom
 Design Studios
 w/hockey tape

FRONT END
 Type: wide-style with
 shaved legs
 Extension: 2 inches under
 Builder: Custom Design
 Studios

WHEELS
 Hub: spool front,
 Exile rear
 Size: 21-inch front,
 15-inch rear
 Tires: Metzeler
 Brakes: Performance
 Machine 6-piston
 Photos: Mike Chase
 Contact: Custom Design
 Studios; 415-382-6682

