

WESTSIDE Style



ONE TOUGH TRIKE WITH AN EVEN TOUGHER OWNER ...

WORDS & PICS DOC

When I was a kid my heroes were cowboys, riding across the silver screen on magnificent horses and wearing flash outfits with twin six guns at the ready. But as I grew up my heroes changed – they became top fuel drag bike riders, MotoGP riders, fighter pilots and the military's special forces. However, there's another category of hero I admire greatly and for this we'll use a dictionary definition: "a man of distinguished courage or ability".

Now Petri, the owner of this trick black trike, will probably cringe when he reads this, but like it or not, he joins my personal list of biker heroes, in that after breaking his neck in a dirt bike accident eight years ago he's about to get back out there on the road. I don't know if I would have that sort of courage. Let's hear from him in his own words.

"I started thinking about a custom trike two-and-a-half years ago. I'm a C5 (fifth cervical vertebra) incomplete quadriplegic, a result of a dirt bike accident eight years ago where I broke my neck and ended up in a wheel-chair. However, I can still move my legs and walk up and down parallel bars.

I have no balance in my legs though, and my hands have limited function.

A while ago, I approached a mate, Shane Watson from Westside Custom Cycles, and asked if it was possible to build something I could ride. His reply to me was, "anything is possible".



GUTS & BOLTS

ENGINE

Type: Stock Twin Cam 96B
 Air Cleaner: Mo-Flow II
 Ignition: SE Pro Super Tuner
 Exhaust: V&H Big Radius

TRANSMISSION

Type: 6-sp/Champion reverse gear
 Primary drive: Chain 34/46 ratio
 Rear drive: 1.125in belt
 70-tooth pulley
 Clutch: Grandeur Auto Clutch
 Diff: Mystery Designs w/ CV joints

FRAME & SUSPENSION

Type: 2009 Night Train/modified
 Rake: 5° added
 Forks: Mean Street 63mm inverted
 Rear: 4 x Progressive Suspension
 air-adjustable shocks

WHEELS & TYRES

F wheel: Colorado 23" multi-piece
 R wheels: Foose Nitrous 18x10"
 H tyre: Avon 130/60-23"
 R tyre: Metzeler 300/35-18"
 F brake: PM 6-spot
 R brakes: Willwood

CONTROLS

Bars: Burleigh Bars Ram Horns
 Grip levers: PM
 Headlight: Tri-Bar Billet
 Taillight: H-D stopbar/indicator
 marker lamps
 Mirrors: Heartland
 Fuel filler: H-D flush-mount
 Gearshift: Pingel auto shifter

GUARDS & FINISH

F guard: 23" RWD
 R guards: 2 x 12" wide, modified
 Mystery Design
 R cone guard: Heartland
 Colour: Jet Black
 Builder: Shane Westside
 Custom Cycles (0410 434 297)

Shane set to researching various options and once we had decided on a design he said we should set a budget. "We'll worry about the budget when the trike is finished," I said.

I then purchased the last new 2009 Night Train available in Australia. That in turn inspired me to get started on a decent physio regime, to gain enough strength and mobility to be able to ride. On a good day I spend around three-and-a-half hours exercising in my gym in the shed.

I still haven't ridden the trike on the road, but I have taken it up and down my driveway. It was fully detailed for the Burswood Hot-Rod Show and the HEAVY DUTY photoshoot, so I wasn't taking any chances - I'm sure Shane would have been less than impressed if I'd dented or scratched it! I am, however, confident that I'm ready to go for my first ride around the block at home, and from there I'll tackle riding in traffic."

And when that happens I'll certain Petri will handle it with aplomb. In doing the conversion, Shane specified a Grandeur Auto Clutch and Pingel auto shift, along with a Champion mechanical reverse gear to simplify the riding procedure.

Shane says the 1.125in belt final drive and 70-tooth rear pulley deliver good grunt off the line through a Mystery Designs spider-gear diff and CV joints, which prevents tyre scrubbing during tight corners.

At the rear we find a modified Mystery Designs independent suspension system, while the shocks comprise two sets of Progressive Suspension air-adjustable units. The braking is down to custom Willwood calipers clamping outboard Mystery Designs discs. A Heartland



ABOVE: The black lights at the rear add to this trike's head-turning appeal.

Ride, Rack and Rest provide a pillion pad and rider backrest when needed.

Very cool features include a Colorado 23in front wheel and twin Foose Nitrous deep-offset rear wheels with custom-painted black rims, and don't they look bloody trick! Up front is a Mean Street front end in a standard length, but with a five-degree rake, which Shane reckons effectively lightens the steering.

Burleigh Ram Horn bars have been dressed up with Performance Machine Contour grips and black levers, while the headlight is a Tri-Bar billet item.

The engine is a stock 96-cuber but livened up with a Cycle Visions Mo-Flow air cleaner, a V&H Big Radius exhaust and an SE Pro Super Tuner.

This is a great looking trike from most angles, very well engineered, and it wears its slinky black paint like Angelina Jolie in a low-cut, black evening dress.

The icing to this cake, so to speak, was the fact that Petri's trike did indeed win Best Trike at the WA Hot Rod and Street Machine Spectacular.

Petri sends special thanks to Shane from Westside and also his ever-suffering partner Nicole, who has supported him throughout the build, albeit with a very worried look on her face. **HD**



The engineering that's gone into this trike is damn impressive, to say the least.

