

Kustom Corner

People always seem amazed at how much pinstripe can accent the looks of their bike. They always tell me "I can't believe the difference it makes" and yes it does.

I've been pin striping at bike rally's and car show's now for about 3 years and the hardest part is finding the good ones. Sometimes I set up my tent, pull out a brush and stripe bike after bike until the sun fades.

Other times I set up and things roll really slow for the day which suck's. Networking is the biggest reason for me to do these shows, and of course cash. I talk to everyone as a potential client because one job is well worth the trip. These event's cost a fair amount of \$\$ for me to attend, but it is a necessity for me and I like to do it. Of course it's better when I at least make enough to pay for the trip, but sometimes it just doesn't work out that way.

I've only been in Wi for 9 months now and I pretty much spent the summer investigating event's and rally's for next summer. I always meet cool folks at these show's and as you know face to face networking is part of the game for me. Striping bikes, passing out cards, talking with people and maybe a cold drink are a good way to spend the day.

People always seem very intrigued with on site pin striping. It makes a huge difference on a bike. The questions I always get are of course how much does it cost. When I'm at an event I charge about \$100.00 to \$ 150.00 for a typical bike, if you want your dresser done head to toe it will be more.

When I stripe at my shop I charge more because the concentration level is higher, no time constraints and less distractions. You can spend \$100.00 to \$400.00 or more on a stripe job but I think the difference it makes is well worth it, without doing a full blown paint job.

The next question is how did you learn to do it?

I bought a brush and a can of One Shot (lettering enamel) and sat for hours striping on a piece of glass. How long does it take? How long does it take to learn to play an instrument? How long does it take to learn to any craft? It takes your whole life!

As with anything, the more you do it the better you get. My striping get's good when I do it everyday. Ultimately I would like to do 2 or 3 jobs a day.

And it's not always about the \$, it's also about the craft and pulling the best line I can at this time in my striping career. Anyone can learn it if you have the patients and determination for it. It's really very simple complexity.

The three variables in pin striping that take time to learn are pressure,



speed and mixture of the paint.

A good line is a combination of mixing the paint on the brush which is called "palletting" this is a process of loading the brush with paint. The consistency is crucial in pulling a good line.

Pressure on the brush will makes differences in the width of the line. The more pressure the wider the line.

The last thing is the travel speed. How fast are you moving? It is very important that speed and pressure work with the consistency of the paint. Usually the faster you can pull a line the straighter it is, but with speed it is very easy to loose control. You can see where this can get very confusing.

Now you have spent hours and hours and 10,000 strokes to get good consistent lines and then we switch brush sizes and types.

There are hundreds of brush types and sizes. Bottom line is striping is very demanding especially at show's when people are talking, asking questions and trying to watch. It requires dedication to the craft, discipline and determination, but it is well worth it when I see the smiles from it and another friendly handshake.

We don't see very many people that are willing to learn this craft anymore; it can take the rest of our lives to master. Ask yourself how many striper's do you know? Not many? Why? If it was easy everyone would do it.

So support the guy's who have spent the time to learn the craft and remember it is art, what some call Low Brow Art. How do you put a price on art?

I will be striping on site at Kutter Harley in Janesville (www.kutterharley.com) a few times in the next couple months please contact Lucy at Kutter for more info.

When you decide to finally get down on a new paint job please feel free to contact me to discuss something cool and unique on your car or bike.

WWW.PROSSERPAINT.COM

Mark@prosserpaint.com

205-329-0664



"Kick Start" your day at

BENNETT'S
MEADOWWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

2009 FREEPORT ROAD NEAR VERONA AND RAYMOND ROADS
MADISON, WI 608-271-3827

Best Breakfast
in Madison
buy 5 get 1 free

Open 6am 7 days a week

Educational Films Sat. and Sun. 6am to Noon

The Place that always treats you like family

Make your own Bloody here

Bikers Always Welcome!!

Rain or Shine

Phillips
FALL RUMBLE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2008
Noon to 4pm??

Steve's Service Center on Highway 13
10 Miles North of Hwy 8 - 2 miles South of Phillips WI

Wet T-Shirt Contest
Tattoo Contest "Weinie" Bite
Burn Out Pit

Music, Food & Beverages on Grounds
FREE CAMPING - Sept. 10th-14th
(No Hook-ups)

For more information call 715-339-4656
www.PhillipsWisconsin.net