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Cover Story

Most bike builders begin with an idea of what they want their motorcycle creation to look like. Old school, rigid frame, soft tail, belt drive, 30 to 60 degree rake, etc. then they usually begin with selecting a frame and the miracle of birth begins.

Ron and Jim Truitt of Truitt's Custom Choppers, started the creation of their bike in a slightly different way. They knew they wanted an old school with a rigid frame, but what you see here is a product of spontaneous design.

This one of a kind bike evolved around a gas tank. Ron took a piece of steel and molded it into a coffin style tank. After hours of perfecting his creation, the father and son team decided piece by piece what the bike would turn out to be.

They selected a West Coast Chopper CFL frame to support the custom gas tank. From there they added a springer front end with a 38 degree rake. The polished aluminum rims sport the maltese cross emblems and supported a 200 series rear tire. But what custom chopper is completed without an S & S 124 cubic inch.

The side cover is a custom made hammered metal maltese cross that Ron and Jim created. The battery box is also custom made. The gas tank has been topped off with a maltese cross gas cap with a pirate skull on top that the guys designed and fabricated.

This bike also sports maltese cross rear view mirrors and rear brake lights.

At this point, Ron and Jim could see their vision coming to life. They decided the paint, graphics and seat design needed to be extraordinary in order to breathe life and personality into their project. With this in mind. They approached a local auto upholsterer who specialized in auto seat restoration. Truitt's Custom Choppers fabricated the seat pan and sketched on paper the idea they wanted to help out. He made a black leather seat with red stitching that has a maltese cross in the center and "Truitt's Custom Choppers" circling it.

While the seat was being mad, Ron and Jim experimented with colors for the



frame, fender and tank. Graphic designs were sketched and tweaked for the final phrase of the build.

The frame received several coats of metallic black paint, and the tank and fender were painted Metallic Ghost Gray. Flames and skulls were air brushed by Rom onto the fenders and tank and then given several coats of clear coat. The seat was placed on the bike and the personalities of it's creators emerged.

They fired her up and she roared to life. The maiden ride was an experientenot soon forgotten, the power and roar of the S & S engine is distinctive only to a custom chopper.

This father and son team have been working together for over seven years on various projects, but this creation is by far the most exciting and rewarding that they have ever experienced.

Photos by Colleen Swartz

Digital Magic BigShots www.digitalmagicbigshots.com



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