

Kustom Corner

Growing up North West of the motor city (Detroit) in a family owned collision/restoration shop that my father owned in our back yard for 27 years I had no choice but to eventually go Kustom. As far back as I can remember motorcycles, cars, snowmobiles, go carts, dune buggies and anything else with a motor were part of the day for me and three older brothers. I remember wet sanding complete cars for my dad for \$20.00. But if it wasn't a good job it was reduced to \$10.00. Craftsmanship, work ethic and pride in your skills we're instilled in my head at a very early age by my father. He always said "talk is talk, Let the work speak for itself ". He ran a successful business for 27 years and never once placed an ad or advertisement of any kind His whole career was based around word of mouth networking.

I bought my first wrecked car, fixed it and painted it at the age of 15. I owned three cars before I was 16 and over 20 cars by 21. My brothers changed cars and bikes and toys faster than their underwear. After building many hard hit collision cars and doing several restorations, around the age of 19, I began my welding career at the local community college.

I got involved in V.I.C.A. (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) welding competitions. I placed third at the national competition and competed as a finalist for the world competition in Holland Amsterdam. The next few years we're spent earning a welding technology degree from Ferris State University and working in a variety of welding situations. I started in a governmental contract shop welding Missal parts, turbine generators, aircraft parts and many other parts you we're not required to know what they we're, just weld them. I worked for more specialty welding shops, attended school and worked for my father and brothers doing restoration and paint work.



Fueller at Barber

In their Street Rod and Custom Fabrication Class. This proved to be a full circle for me, now I was teaching something I had done since I was a kid. My second week at Wyotech is when the Overhauled T.V. show came there and a 56 chevy four door post car was built into a two door roadster in 7 day's. It was here I meet Chip Foose, FOOSE DESIGN, Troy Trepainer RAD RIDES BY TROY, Brian Fuller FULLERHOTRODS and many other truly high end craftsmen. Over the next two years I was exposed to and worked the best painters, airbrush artist, pinstripers, metal shapers and fabricators in the country.

This is the time when PROSSERPAINT was born. The idea was there since I was young but now I had the connections, the best training and the drive to make it happen. I started doing paint and airbrush seminars seemed like every month with: John Kosmosky the founder of House of Kolor, Craig Frazer, Steve Vandemon, Steve Martinez, Jason Doll, Deborah Bryant, Paul Stoll from PPG Bob Spina and several others. I started my "metal shaping" (not fabrication) career at this time when I did seminars with Fae Butler and Ron Covell and several of the other instructors there at the school who we're accomplished metal men. A new fire was lit under my rear end and I was doing custom painting, airbrushing, pinstriping, metal shaping and bike and hotrod construction on a daily basis. It dawned on me one day how cool this was when I looked around the shop and saw 11 chop tops going on at once.

In 2005 I was enticed to move to Birmingham AL. to help start a new school similar to Wyotech. I began working in the Custom Motorcycle and Hotrod Body and Chassis design and fabrication class. After one year there I was in charge of developing a three



month 8 hr a day custom paint and airbrush class. Over the next two years I was exposed to even more special training. House of Kolor factory training with John Kosmosky, PPG's custom paint factory training with Paul Stoll, also factory training with Albert Banoun and Auto Air Color factory training with Micky Harris. I did more seminars, BONES, Roger Skovell, Cliff Daigle, Al Draggin and many others. The Paint class was responsible for paint work on Sargent Rock, one of Stacy David's Trucks from TRUCKS T.V. Ted Nugents Famous Zebra bronco was restored and painted for Trucks T.V. at the school. It was here that I meet Brian Fuller of FULLER HOTRODS and also co-host of SPEED channels "TWO GUYS GARAGE" again as he recently moved to Atlanta from L.A. it was then that we developed a personal and professional relationship, and the next year brought much success for PROSSERPAINT.

The V.C. Tech Indian was started. Fuller designed it; he and I, several students and other instructors built everything on the bike from scratch except the hard parts. It won 14th place at the World Championships, was invited to the Artistry in Iron show in Vegas and toured around the country for the year wowing people where ever it went.

A short time after Brian and I came home from taking the Indian to Artistry in Iron in Vegas. Bryan got the call to do the Discovery Channel Biker Build off Show. And Two months later along with Tim Garner of Garner Custom Cycles, PROSSERPAINT was painting the FULLER "FUELLER" on THE BIKER BUILD OFF episode against Greg Westbury of Concord CA. When the paint was done I also helped with the final assembly on the bike. (53 hours straight) Unfortunately the bike was unable to make the show tour because it was quickly bought up by the BARBER MUSEUM in Birmingham.

Both of these bikes can be seen at WWW.PROSSERPAINT.COM or FULLER-HOTRODS.com. PROSSERPAINT is a professional full line custom paint shop. I have a small shop with little overhead to keep cost reasonable for my customers and concentrate on the work and not corporate aspects of it. I do mobile striping and paint work, I will come to your place and stripe, layout flames or whatever you want. I have painted about everything but specialize in bikes. I have done work for customers all over the country, and have been fortunate to work with some of the best customizers out there. PROSSERPAINT has been seen at bike and car shows across the country, Several Magazine publications and National T.V. I am looking forward to establishing my business here in the mid-west, please feel free to contact me about your project.

Free riders press has invited me to bring some of my experience and knowledge to it's readers, "YOU", and I am very excite to do that over the next few months. We will be exploring the World of "Kustom". Rods, Bikes, Paint, Metal (shaping and fabrication), Pinstripe and everything else that we can think of will be our topics of chatter. We will discuss materials and tools of the trade in the coming months. Don't make the mistake of missing next month's issue when we talk about "Just what is Kustom Paint?"

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Mark Prosser (owner/artist)
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