



## Need for Speed?

With Derringer Cycles, Adrian Van Anz Has Created the Perfect Fix

• Writing | Stephen Krzmar

There are two problems that have confounded designers for decades. No. 1 is the bird feeder. Don't laugh. The first scheme to whip up a design that can keep squirrels at bay will make Michael Bay-type money.

Problem No. 2? A moped that looks cool. That feat may never be accomplished, but industrial designer Adrian Van Anz did one better when he created Derringer Cycles last fall. The hybrid bike can be propelled solely by pedal power or with a twist of the throttle, and will turn heads wherever it goes. Since the engine is smaller than those found on mopeds, anyone over 16 can operate it without a special license, and it's incredibly efficient, capable of 180 miles a gallon, and 300 miles on a single, 1.8 gallon tank.

"Your butt will complain long before you have to refill the tank," says Anz.

But these numbers that make Al Gore drool are second only to the lines of this bike, which just may bring Steve McQueen back from the dead so he can get a few more miles in.

The bike's design is a nod to track racing motorcycles of the 1920s, a sport that began a decade earlier in Playa Del Rey. These motorcycles raced on oval tracks with steep banks and plenty of room for the huge crowds who came in droves to see the motorcycles that could hit 100 mph, back when cars topped out at 30.

But Anz's neo-classical reinterpretation includes a few key differences: brakes, a clean-running engine, a gas cap that's monogrammed for the owner, and a contagious capability to show non-cycling adults the beauty of two-wheeled transportation, which is something Anz has felt forever.

Anz was so young when he learned to ride a bicycle that he can't even remember it. But his whole family can recall his first experience with a throttle. At the tender age of 5, his father put him on a Honda XR50, taught him the basics, and as soon as young Anz had the chance, he popped the clutch and was off.

"It took 10 feet to realize that I was a motorcyclist," says Anz.

And it took 50 feet to realize that he didn't know how to control the bike. Anz hit the dirt, took a chunk out of his face and was soon in the emergency room, getting there only minutes after a surgeon had finished patching up Michael Jackson after his famous accident on a Pepsi set.

The father and son team continued to share their love of two-wheelers by putting together old Harleys. While young Anz often just wanted to complete the project, his father pushed his son until it was just right.

"If he wouldn't have been there telling me it had to be perfect, I wouldn't be where am I am today," said Anz, who went on to become a big name in the design world, creating everything from a vodka-cooled leather computer system, featuring a 24k gold bezel and built-in cigarette lighter to a black iPod complete with 3 carats of diamonds for P. Diddy.

But for now, he's concentrating on his Derringers — the two-wheeled, \$3,500 carrots on a stick that he hopes will be a gateway vehicle for his company to encourage a more eco-friendly commute for all. His goal is "for people to buy them because they're cool ... ride them because they're fun and the next thing they know, they've ridden five miles. Soon it's 10 miles. And after that they're pedaling full-time."

After that he can concentrate on what the world really needs — a blinged-out, squirrel-free bird feeder.

7954 1/2 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles | 323.944.0092 | www.derringercycles.com