



DERRINGER CYCLES

by *Caroline Korbay*

A little under a year ago, Adrian Anz opened up Derringer Cycles in Los Angeles where he sells motorized bikes—what Anz calls the missing link between his Ducati and his Schwinn. Each bike, powered by a Honda 4-cycle engine and featuring automatic transmission, costs around \$1,500. (Upgrades like custom colors are available for additional cost.)

"My philosophy behind the design of Derringer," Anz says, "was to take the iconic image of board track racing motorcycles and use design elements present on the original bikes for different purposes."

Board track racing bikes were originally controversial because they went faster than cars. "Racing motorcycles could achieve speeds in excess of 100 mph," explains Anz, "when cars only went 30. Plus the bikes had no brakes." This made them fascinating—and death traps.

Sticking with the idea of a lightweight bike with an engine, and smartly adding brakes, Anz brought forth the Derringer motorized bike. "I used the Spartan design ethic of the original but my reason was to allow for the use of a smaller, more fuel-efficient engine," Anz says.

In addition to the engine, the tires are also unique to Derringer. "The wide tires on Derringers roll over rough pavement and soak up bumps without the use of suspension," Anz explains, unlike mountain bikes. Besides being wide, the tires are stark white. "The white tires served the nostalgia as well as the low carbon footprint idea so important in the design of a Derringer," Anz quipped.

For such a savvy guy, one might wonder, why did he name the shop Derringer instead of Anz? "The name Derringer was taken from a type of handgun, typically of a small caliber," Anz explains. "A Derringer cycle is small but will have a powerful effect on you and your lifestyle."



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