

Pics Sabine Welbe

FOR TIME CHANGE

Some people get stuck doing jobs they hate, having wives they don't desire and even owning a pet that isn't right for them. The worst of all scenarios is being stuck riding a bike that doesn't suit your style.

Such was the case for poor Frank Butte in Germany. He'd spent the majority of his 39 years playing around in the dirt—most recently on a Honda CR450F. Though it's a sweet second or third bike, Frank actually has had an unscratchable itch for a street machine. He finally found the strength to part with his Honda, though, and swapped it for an old tube-framed Buell X1.

When Frank rolled it into his garage, it was as box-stock as a bike can be, but it

didn't take long to change that. His internet skills quickly landed him an RRC swingarm and then fitted PVM wheels in front and back.

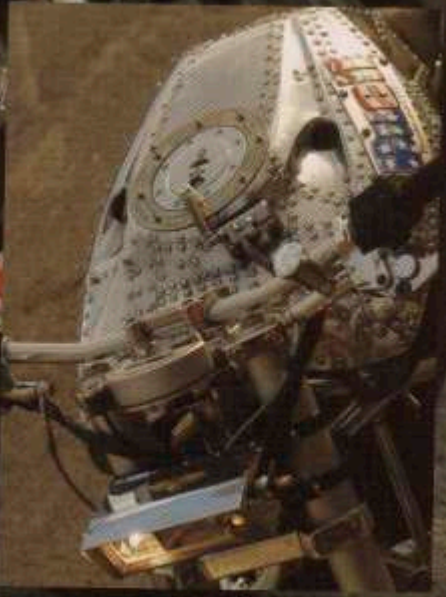
Frank neatly designed-in a raw aluminum rivet theme that he had painted on the front fender, but the pattern on the tank is an actual aluminum cover that he sourced off eBay. He hasn't Germanized it too radically, and the bike still sings of an authentic Buell—just smartly modified.



THE BUYER'S BOX

1989 BUELL X1 LIGHTNING

- FRONT END:** PVM wheel, Braking Wave rotor, Wilbers Suspension fork springs, LSL Dragbar
- REAR END:** PVM wheel, Braking Wave rotor
- MOTOR:** Forcewinder air filter, Buell race exhaust, Hillbilly Motors hydraulic clutch
- PAINT:** "Pearl Harbor" tank cover
- POLISH/CHROME:** N/A
- BODYWORK:** N/A
- ACCESSORIES:** Carbon-fiber clutch cover, bellypan, sprocket cover
- OWNER/BUILDER:** Frank Butte



AMERICAN IRON

...German style