
VINTAGE

Motorcycle News

LA ROUTE A JAMAIS - RIDE TILL YOU CAN'T - DER WEG IST DAS ZIEL

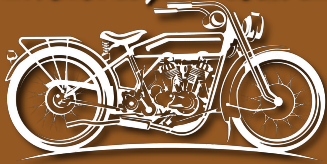
SPECIAL EDITION N°12 • Collector Series

The Steampunk World



VINTAGE

Motorcycle News



A motorcycle publication
for the motorcyclist enthusiast.



EDITOR

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COVER PAGE

Mono Wheel
Steampunk design

Notice

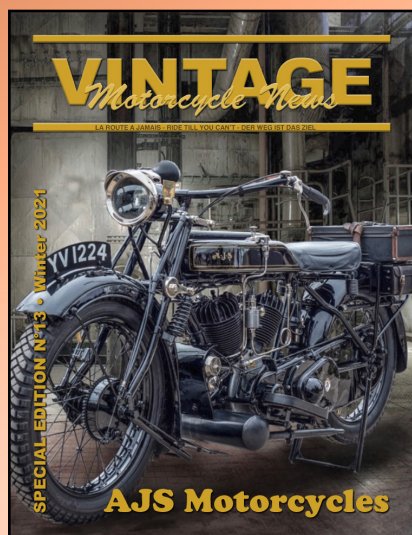
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NEXT EDITION

AJS stands for A.J. Stevens & Co., the firm's full official name. But that's an awful lot to fit on the side of a motorcycle tank, so they made do with the initials. Read more about this iconic brand in the next issue...



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



It looks like we are starting a trend, for the second time, the Fall Edition is about something not related to the vintage motorcycles: The Steampunk World...

The steampunk culture has something magic about it.

Have you ever read a Jules Verne novel? The graphics of the time and the technical terms describing the machines

used by the hero of his books are close to if not, are real steampunk creations...

Again my technical background is taking over and even though my brain does not want to accept these contraptions, some geniuses made them for real and are even riding them in all their glory. The steampunk culture has something magic about it, but understanding what makes these people tick still eludes me.

What's cool about steampunk, is the total freedom of creation. While functionality and comfort are very important when designing steampunk apparel, this is not a first-hand pre-requisite for steampunk vehicles. Everything goes... The look is more important than reliability or safety.

In the end, these machines are not designed to spend hours on the road but to please the eyes and to transport you in another period of some sort. It is odd to think you are traveling back in time whilst being in your own world.

The Webster dictionary gives this definition:

Steampunk

A genre of science fiction that has a historical setting and typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advanced technology.

A style of design and fashion that combines historical elements with anachronistic technological features inspired by science fiction: the essence of steampunk is homage to vintage fashion with a modern, sassy twist.

In the next few pages you will discover beauty, ingenuity, talent, extravagance and savoir-faire. This kind of art form is here to stay. With an open mind, you will discover the beauty within.

Till next time... Ed.

Pat Castel is known for his involvement with the MOA organization as well as his Editor position in many past and present club newsletters. He began riding five decades ago and spent his youth surrounded by BMW, Moto Guzzi, BSA, Motobecane and Peugeot motorbikes and remains as much in love with motorcycles as when he first got his first 49cc Mobylette.



Honda CB 250 Steampunk Isabel





There are loads of genres among media texts, but rarely do you find fans like those of steampunk. It's not just the books and comics that enthrall them, but the world itself. People interact with the steampunk world; you don't go to conventions dressed up as characters you like but rather a character you create from its interactivity of the world, and the fans' willingness to take part be they four or ninety, that has quickly made this a main stream science fiction subgenre and will ensure its existence in the future. I don't know of any other community that holds immersive conventions, where you stay in character all weekend and the hotel and staff are dressed up to play along.

But let's back up a little bit.

What exactly is steampunk?

The most popular, mainstream example would be the 2009 Sherlock Holmes movie starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; especially at the end when gadgets come into play.

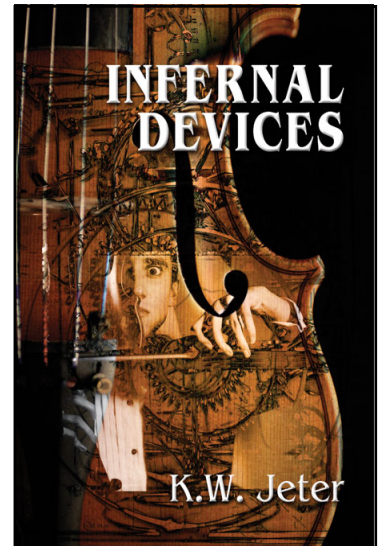
In its simplest form, steampunk is alternate history fiction taking place during the Victorian age with an emphasis on technology. During this time in history, the industrial revolution was producing new gadgets

and gizmos, and steampunk in part derives its name from the steam powered equipment that its characters create. Think steam powered computers and contraptions reminiscent of Jules Verne.

Popular aesthetics of the genre include airships and goggles.

How did steampunk come to be?

Steampunk is a rather young genre, though older than the paranormal romance category. The term had been coined by K. W. Jeter as a tongue in cheek modification of cyberpunk, which developed in 1984, as a way to describe his books and those of fellow authors writing in a similar manner. Jeter's books, *Morlock Night* (1979) and *Infernal Devices* (1987), were written to be companions to H.G.Wells' *The Time Machine* and are considered the first novels of the genre. The second book is the more famous of the two, and the first to have been labeled as steampunk because Jeter did not con the term until 1987.



Widespread awareness of the genre however did not develop until 1990 with William Gibson and Bruce Sterling's novel *The Difference Engine*. And it wasn't until 1995 that the word steampunk was part of a title – Paul Di Filippo's *Steampunk Trilogy* of short novels. *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, both the graphic novel by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill in 1999 and the film version in 2003, however really popularized the genre to the mainstream audience and not just those hard core science fiction fans.

Since then, there has been a soft explosion of steampunk media. It hasn't taken over bookstores or theaters yet, but it lurks around the edge. The webcomic *Girl Genius* has won the Hugo Award for Best Graphic Story two years in a row now, and steampunk books and stories have been showing up on award lists for several years now. They have also been featured in a few television shows, such as *Castle*.



Variants of steampunk

But with the popularization of steampunk the media it contains has shifted a bit. Today there are different versions of steampunk, and there are concerns as to whether some variants are truly steampunk or simply using elements of the genre to attract the steampunk audience.

Historical

Also considered true or original steampunk, this style of the genre includes any recent science fiction that takes place in the Victorian period and a recognizable location (or an alternative history version of such) where the Industrial Revolution has begun, but electricity is not common so technology is steam or spring propelled. Also acceptable time periods are the Edwardian era and the very early years of the Industrial Revolution.

Thus, stories of this type lean more towards science fiction than fantasy, though it is possible for there to be a mixture of both such as in the Disney film *Atlantis* or *Jeter's fist* book, *Morlock Night* (in which King Arthur has to save England from an attack by Morlocks who got a hold of the time machine).

Fantastic

While steampunk of this type still focus on the use of steam or spring powered technology, the setting is a fantasy world created by the author. There are a lot of tabletop and video RPGs of this type of steampunk, most notable *Final Fantasy VI* and *IX*, and the societies of gnomes and goblins in *World of Warcraft* could be considered as such as well.

There are also versions where steampunk technology is in use in a hypothetical future, such as the films *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind* or *Treasure Planet*.

Due to the lack of historical placement of these stories, there is some concern as to whether this steampunk



sub-genre is any different from a regular fantasy. Removing the story from a historic setting lends a more fantastic feeling to a work than a science fiction one, of which the original steampunk novels were. However there are texts of this type that while not taking place during the Victorian time, the worlds behave in similar ways.

Others

There are smaller subsets of steampunk, typically coined by author to describe their own work and the terms are not widely used. One is *gaslamp fantasy*, referring to fiction told in a Victorian style without a machinery focus, instead is more of a romantic story. *Steamgoth* refers to dark versions of steampunk, and *Western steampunk* are stories that take place in a wild, wild west setting

Aesthetics

Many steampunk fans adopt the genre as a type of personal culture, where elements of the books' popular aesthetics show up in their choice of wardrobe and home décor. This trend is also called *neo-Victorianism*, as not everyone who enjoys Victorian design and clothing is a fan of steampunk.

Clocks are popular, as are gears. It's also not uncommon to redesign modern technology to look like something from the Victorian era – computers housed in brass with gears on the side. Waistcoats and corsets are regaining popularity as clothing items for fans, as are military inspired garments.

As for common items seen in books and films, airships and goggles are a must for the genre and are prominent on book covers. Though they are a bit hard to include in everyday life.

Chimera 1

From
The Pulsar Project





This elaborate custom made motorcycle is by Athens-born Cris Cofitis.

Quite a piece of work that would turn the head of a lot of bike rally goers.

The Pulsar Projects is full of these Steam-punk creations. In the scooter category a Vespa caught the attention of the jury and the result is also astonishing. Under the hands of the same creator Cris Cofitis, the Guardian came to life.

Astonishing Steam-punk Vespa from the Pulsar Project. Vespa scooters are a milestone in the 2-wheeled world with their iconic design which is as simple as it is unmistakable.

However, their classic attire can be transformed into something new, with a character so striking and unique that it really makes us gape in awe.

And the Guardian, Pulsar Projects' steampunk Vespa is

The Guardian

From The Pulsar Project



such a scooter.

Created by sculptor Cris Cofitis, the Guardian is anything but the Vespa we expected. With a painstaking care for the minute details, Cris has managed to create a scooter which resembles more to a sculpture on wheels.

What's even more striking is the fact that Cris Cofitis was able to retain all the vintage character of the Vespa, with its massive apron and fat side covers, while at the same time leaving absolutely no part unmodified.

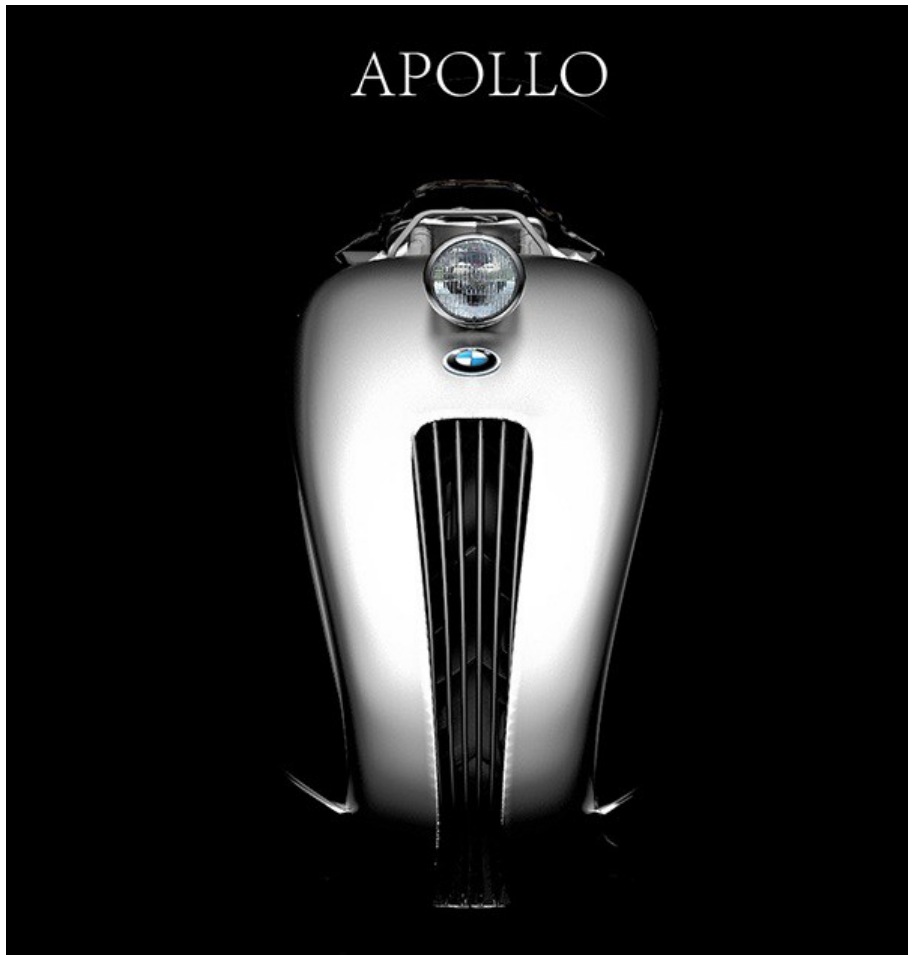
This steampunk bonanza is even more alluring because of all the stylish details: far from simply loading all sorts of brushed metal parts and bolts on the basic scooter, Cris has made full use of his expertise as a fashion designer to carefully trim everything into place, maintaining a wonderful balance between art and mechanics.



BMW Apollo Streamliner

BMW Apollo Streamliner Is Seemingly Jaw-Dropping. An industrial designer from Turkey has imagined a jaw dropping futuristic looking BMW bike known as BMW Apollo Streamliner. Although the bike looks a bit classical, its rear suspension and exposed engine compartment may sure capture the attention of the BMW automaker.

BMW Apollo Streamliner is designed for both power and speed. The rear wheel is quite big and fat, possibly conceptualised for friction while cruising at high speed and front wheel is fully covered in order to reduce aerodynamic drag caused by air resistance.



Furlanetto's design retains the basic functionality and minimal cycling principles, even though imagining such a contraption passing me on the highway is a bit far-fetched.

Honestly, it's interesting to check with some guys who know their way around monowheel dynamics and ask them whether such a project has any chances.

Turning seems to be a problem as speed increases, and I'm not sure on the braking power of this sidecar machine.

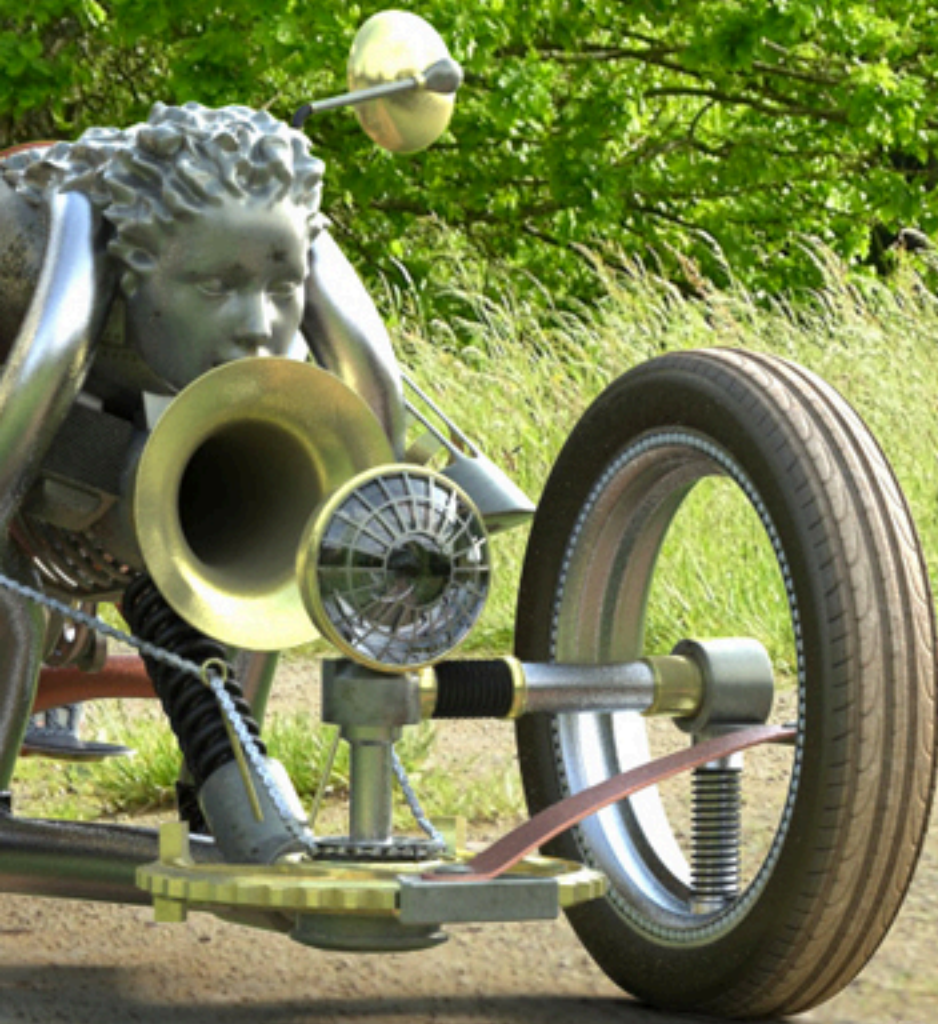
Yet it might be just a very fashionable way to enjoy slow-paced rides around huge parks surrounding an equally-steampunk manor.

And why not thinking of endowing this bike with turn signals and all the needed lights and make it street-legal.

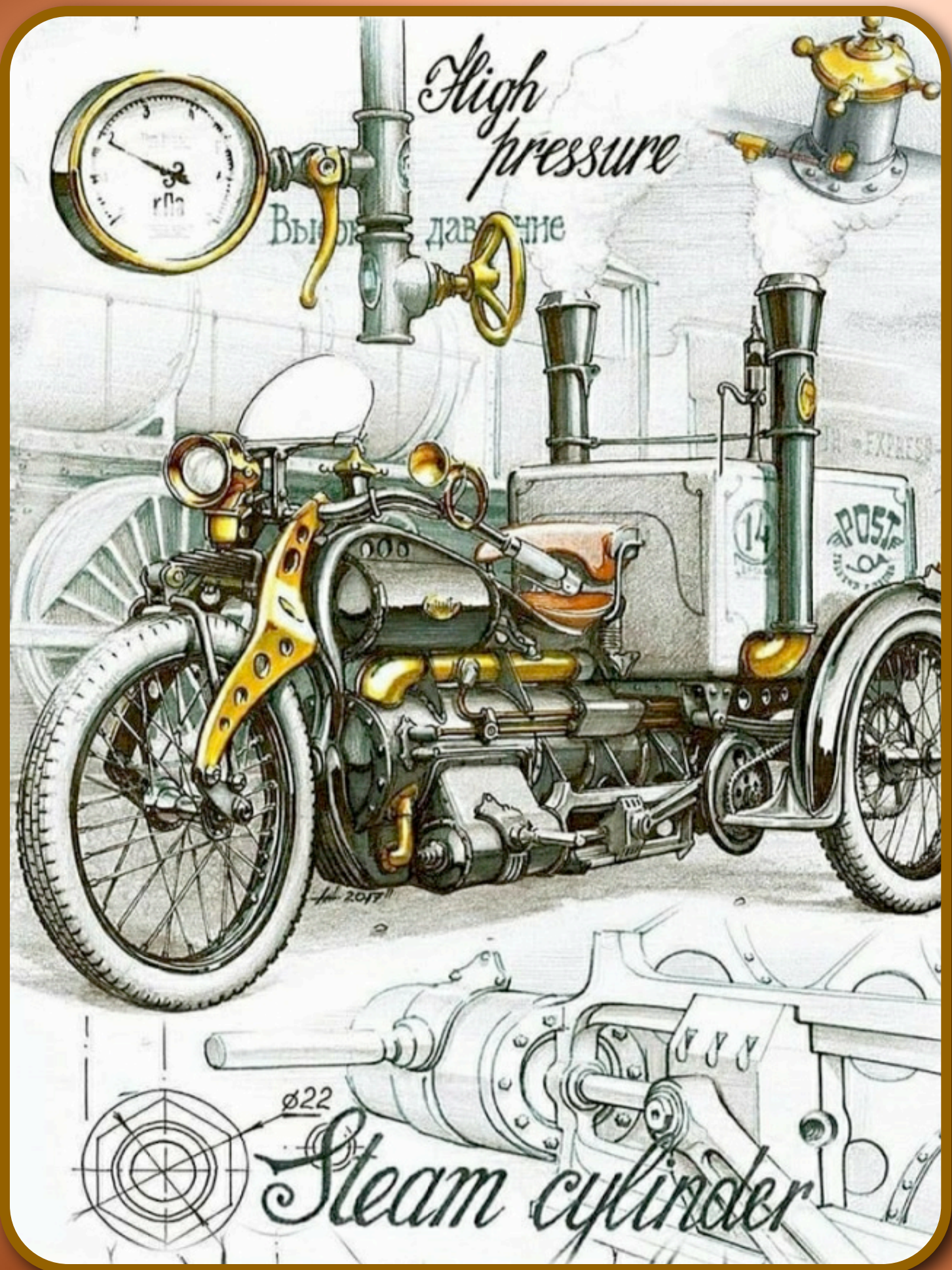


Marco Furlanetto

is an Italian artist who is not afraid to experiment, and can work miracles in the steampunk world







Source: Trusty.com



A steampunk motorcycle inspired by an old Soviet Union' train

The concept or idea of modification to create a cool motorcycle to look different can come from anywhere. Even ideas can come from unexpected things and even the concepts they carry are diverse, ranging from unique, classic to modern concepts.

So not infrequently the creative ideas of the modifiers can change the motorcycle appearance that was originally mediocre to be more unique.

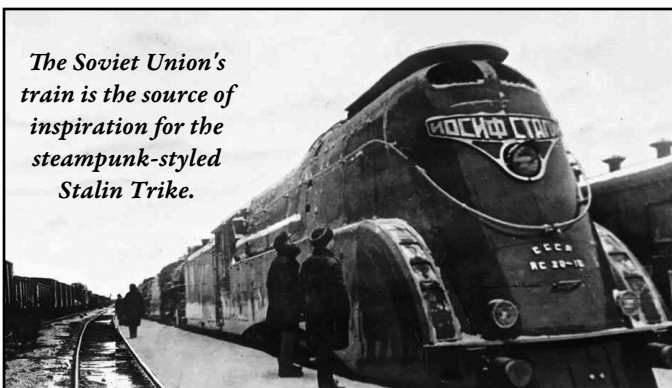
Like this modified steampunk motorcycle called the Stalin Trike made by Asook Customs, the Saint-Petersburg-based motorcycle builder is inspired by the Soviet Union's classic train. Just an info, in its

hey day the train was able to run up to speeds of 110 miles per hour or around 160 km per hour.

As reported by Ride Apart, that the modified steampunk motorcycle inspired by Josep Stalin's era locomotive applied two wheels at the front and one wheel at the back with the selection of small-diameter tires. While the fairing section is made in such a way that it resembles the design of the steam furnace of the classic train, by the design of the swooping line that surrounds the headlight like a veil, and combined the image of two large red stars on the front-wheels.

What's interesting about this modification is the overall appearance of the body, which may have never been on the market before. Like the handlebars or steering that serves to control the two front wheels by using the lever with a vertical grip.

Unfortunately, there is no information about the engine that carried this motorbike. Only mentioned that the engine is made of elements of an aircraft radial motor. By design, it rotates the rear wheel through a horizontal bar, like an old steam locomotive. It looks incredibly cool, but unfortunately does not work well.



The Soviet Union's train is the source of inspiration for the steampunk-styled Stalin Trike.



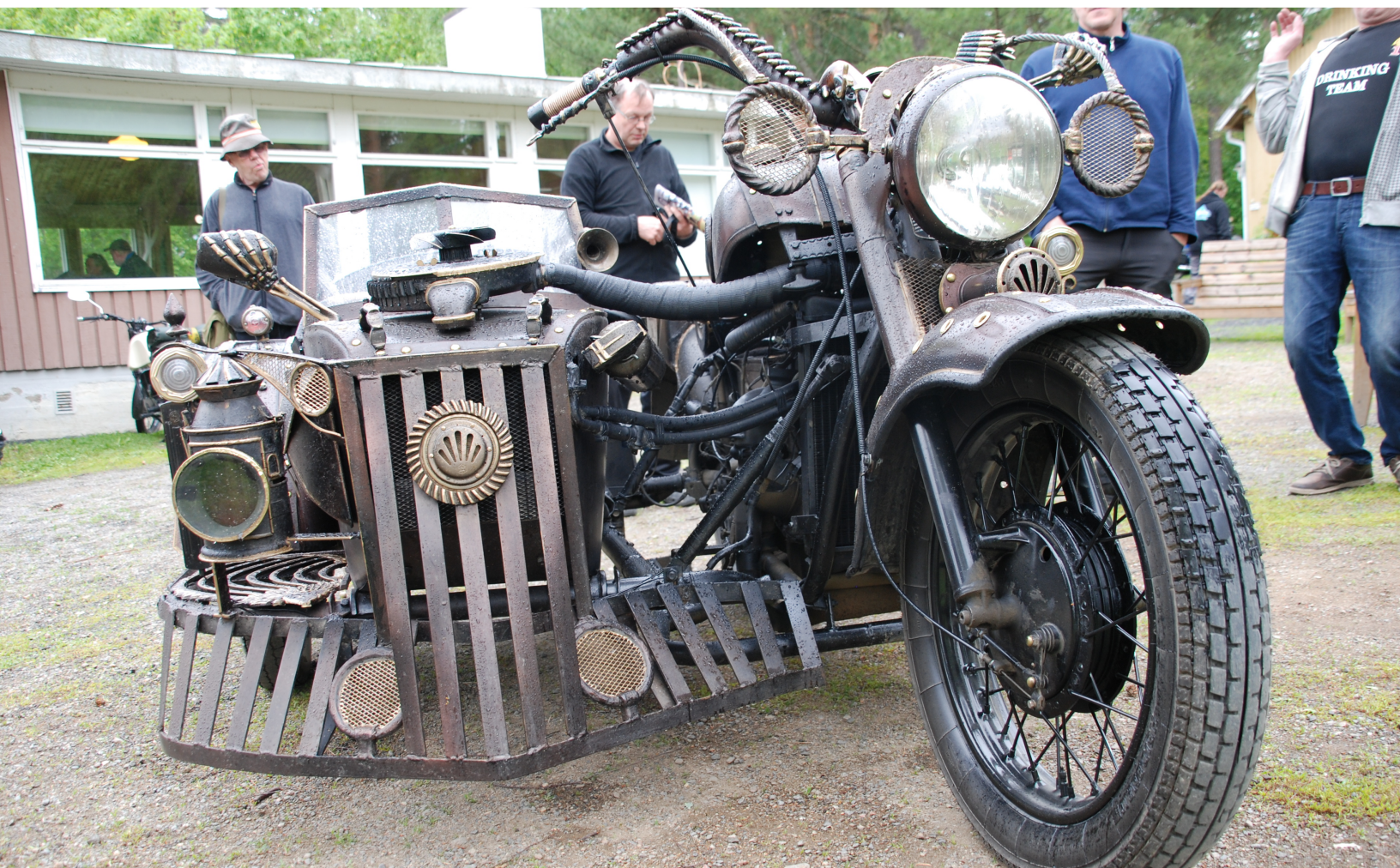
It is unknown whether this three-wheeled vehicle roadworthy and can be used as befits a motorcycle in general.

Although inspired by a fast steam train, the modifier did not design this three-wheeled motorcycle to ride at high speed. And this modification is clearly only focused on a unique look and to show it has a complicated design. This is inseparable as proof of the

manifestation of creative modification with concepts whose basic ideas are taken from the great history of the Soviet Union.

At least, this motorcycle modification can give an idea to automotive lovers, especially the modifiers, as well as to show that the sources of inspiration of something unique can be taken from anywhere and even of the simple things.





**"Steampunk designed 1959 Ural K-750 Sidecar Tricycle"
Photographed at the Helsinki Bike Show**



This sidecar is the perfect steampunk representation.

The
JUGGERNAUT
By Hot-Dock Custom-Cycles





*I just dived straight in without
doing a single image sketch.
Some things turn out better
than you imagined.
That's what's fascinating about
customizing, what gives it
depth.*

KEIJI KAWAKITA



STEAMPUNK



Pioneering custom motorcycle builders breathe new life into the BMW K 1600 GTL

"IGNITE STRAIGHT 6" is a custom project involving the K 1600 GTL, BMW's flagship model equipped with a straight-six engine. Joining the project are Keiji Kawakita of HOT-DOCK CUSTOM-CYCLES and Kenji Nagai of Ken's Factor—two pioneering figures on Japan's custom bike scene, and renowned the world over for the high quality of their craftsmanship. These two builders not only customize bikes: they compete and have been awarded prizes in various contests, develop their own original parts and take part in races. They have even customized the way they live through their passion for motorcycles and love of life. Their customizing spirit was ignited by this project.

BMW K1600 GTL CUSTOM PROJECT

At the Osaka Motorcycle Show, BMW Japan has just thrown the wraps off two extreme customs

based on the K1600 GTL. That's the range-topping luxury tourer, a road-going spaceship powered by a 1649cc inline six—and probably packed with more electronics than any other motorcycle on the market today.

Just two builders were chosen for these transformations, and both are legends in the Japanese custom world: Keiji Kawakita of Hot Dock Custom Cycles, and Kenji Nagai of Ken's Factory. The results were very different. They're not 'new wave' or café-style customs: this is free-form building from two of the most radical and skilled craftsmen in the East.

One of them, Keiji Kawakita talks about his creation.

His work could have been easily extracted from the new Mad Max movie coming out in May.

Here is what he had to say:



We arrange the parts we fit and adjust the profile of the machine to get the customization we are aiming for. Good looks and riding fun are a result of maximizing the use of minimal equipment. But I thought the K 1600 GTL was at the opposite end of the scale from this. So I fretted quite a bit even after taking the body apart. But I set to work, and when the front end began to take shape, the image I had of the bike suddenly grew.

In fact, about a year previously, I found an old photograph of the cockpit of a convertible that looked like something from the near future, and I got the idea of making a bike that had that kind of atmospheric feel. Looking at the front forks and Duolever suspension, I thought I could do this with the K 1600 GTL.

But the actual work was long and hard, a tough job to handle. In the middle of building I still didn't have a clear picture of the completed work. Even when I finished, I still wasn't really sure whether the work was complete. But that's the thing about customizing, isn't it.

The suspension and frame I left as standard, but the exterior parts are all hand made. I made a framework for the exterior with aluminum pipe, fixed aluminum panels to this front and back and then proceeded with finishing. The gauges I set in the exterior packaging were dummies, but I changed the positions of panels and needles to match up with adjacent parts. Parts other than the packaging are all given an aging paint treatment.

For a while after I was crowned champion at the "World's Biggest Build-Off" in 2008, I found myself bereft of ideas about customization. I felt a bit used up, and thought about leaving it to the younger generation. But the R nineT Custom Project got underway around that time, and seeing the younger builders enthusiastically getting stuck into it was maybe the stimulus I needed. Then, when I saw the K 1600-based custom machine by the Belgian builder, Krugger, I was blown away. The custom scene is a world of freedom. I was also keenly aware of changes on the bike scene. So for this project, I wanted to make a bike that shouted out to all the people who'd given me the renewed

incentive. A bit later, I noticed how tough it was to build a custom machine based on the K 1600 (laughs).

But the project was enjoyable nonetheless. I was getting up early, already thinking about an area I was going to work on, and this seemed to be happening naturally, every morning. There were a lot of constraints and trouble spots, but these were more than compensated for by the fun of it. I really haven't felt like that in a long time.

Let's take a closer look at Keiji Kawakita's work...

HOT DOCK 'JUGGERNAUT' The K1600 GTL is an imposing machine in its own right. Weighing 767 lbs (348 kg) fully fueled and almost 2.5 meters long, it's a bike for experienced riders.

Kawakita-san has amped up the visual bulk, with completely new aluminum bodywork from nose to tail. Powertrain mods are restricted to a new airbox and custom-fabricated muffler: the engine already provides a wall of torque, and enough power to propel the K1600 to 200kph.

The exoskeleton effect gives a militaristic, almost steampunk vibe—helped by aluminum pipes following the contours of the new body panels and matt grey paint.



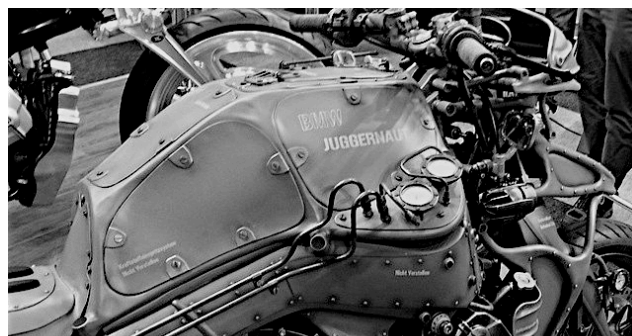
The engine cases have been refinished with an aging effect, which is carried through to the switchgear mounted onto custom bars.

Brass gauges on either side of the tank carry the name Herschel—a nod to the German-born astronomer who discovered Uranus in 1781 and joined the court of King George III.

HOT-DOCK CUSTOM-CYCLES

Keiji Kawakita opened HOT-DOCK CUSTOM CYCLES in 1984, where he set about customizing Harley-Davidson machines, many of which he exhibited at custom motorcycle shows. He has also been active in developing original custom parts. At the time he opened his workshop, he became involved in drag racing and also entered road races on single cylinder and twin cylinder bikes that were popular in Japan at the time. In addition to building custom machines, Ken manufactures and sells many high-quality/high-performance parts for use on the race circuit. He also built an original bike equipped with a V-twin four-valve engine that he designed himself. In 2008, he competed with the world's finest at the "World's Biggest Build Off", a custom bike show celebrating the 50th anniversary of S&S Cycle, an American after-market specialist in the Harley-Davidson sector.

Award Record



• WORLD BUILD OFF/World champion (2008)

• COOL- BREAKER/Sponsorship and many more...

Another Steampunk creation



COAL-FIRED STEAM MOTORBIKE



By Derya Ozdemir

SOURCE: Interesting Engineering



This Coal-Fired Steam Motorbike Built by Technician Is a Steampunk Dream.

Its engine is all homemade with pieces from a small Petter diesel engine.

Mark Sanderson is, by his definition on Facebook, a self-employed professional groundwork and gardening technician, but it seems like he is also a coal-fired steam bike professional too, if his recent artwork is anything to go by.

On a post to a Facebook group called Traction Talk Members, he wrote, "*Just finished building coal fired steam bike. Took four years.*" and posted the most amazing pictures you'll see of a steampunk motorbike today.

Homemade engine

While he hasn't reached back to us yet, in some Facebook comments he shared some details about the steampunk dream bike. Apparently the boiler is 4" Foster design. Moreover, he stated, "*Engine is all homemade with crank and part of cases from a small Petter diesel engine.*"

Built in 4 years

It's just astonishing that the engine is completely homemade. Moreover, building such a thing in four years must have been quite an adventure.

While steampunk motorbikes don't come in plenty, it is even rarer to see one with a homemade steam engine that runs on coal. We are betting it would be a hot ride to use that thing!

And it actually works!

Afterwards, Sanderson posted videos of the motorbike running, and while the vehicle is understandably loud, it is just magical to see him using the thing. He wrote, "*Here's the first steam up since total strip down for paint.*"

Steampunk motorbikes unite

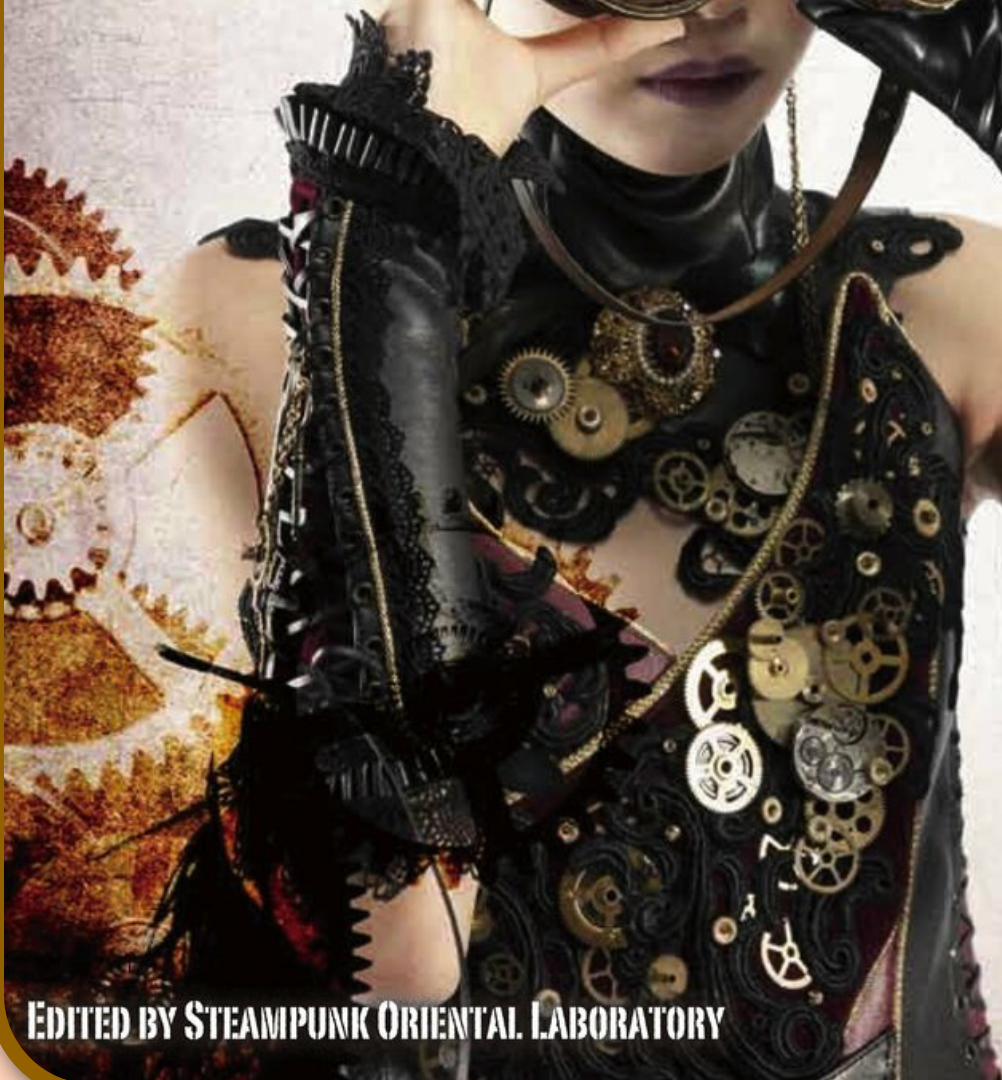
Sanderson's bike has joined the ranks of steampunk creations made by other artists that are almost always showstoppers.

So, if you're one of the few who is completely bored by the innovative electric bikes, this absolutely unique, steam-powered motorbike inspired by Jack Sparrow will definitely tickle your fancy.

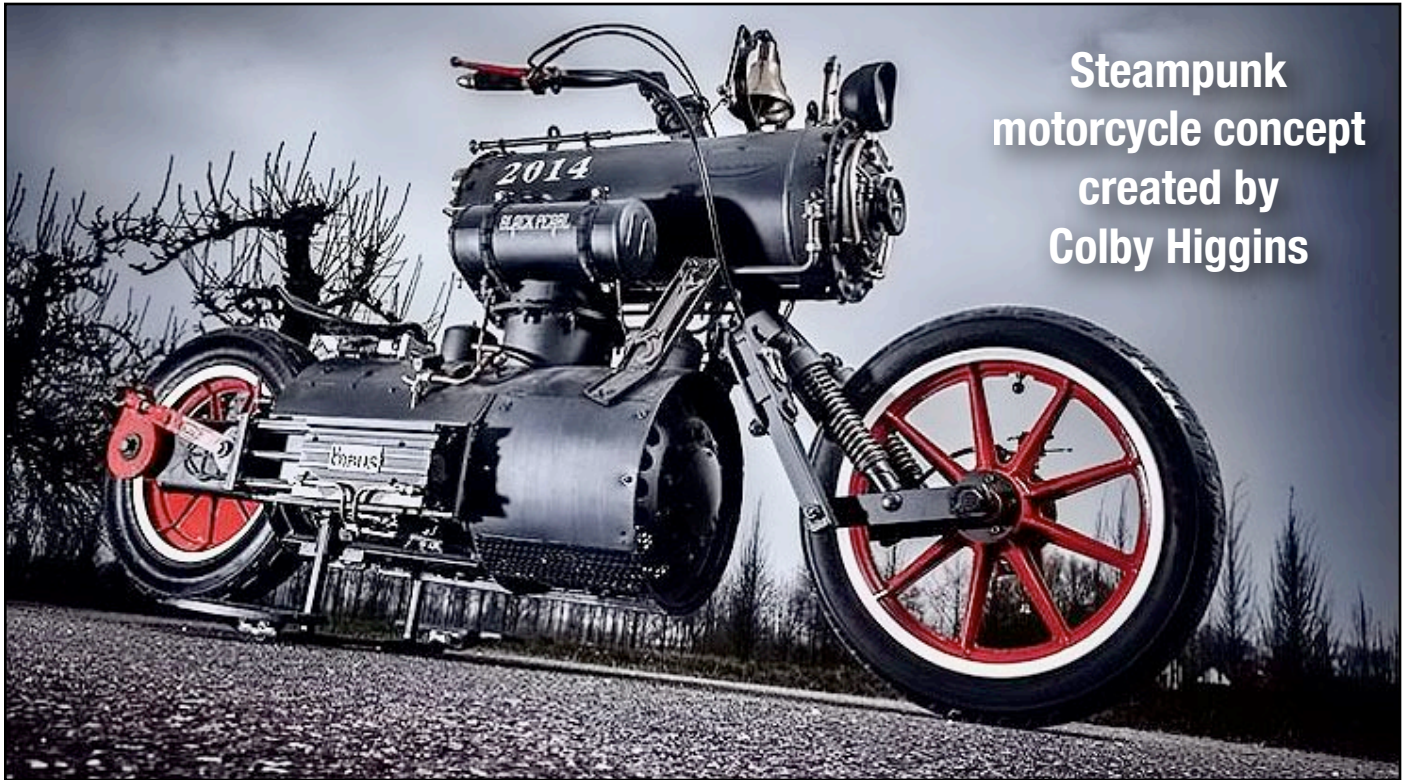


STEAMPUNK STYLE

THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FOR
CONTRAPTORS, GIZMOLOGISTS AND
PRIMOCOGLERS EVERYWHERE!



EDITED BY STEAMPUNK ORIENTAL LABORATORY



**Steampunk
motorcycle concept
created by
Colby Higgins**

The Train Wreck, for this is the name of that concept, proved to be a very good source of inspiration for Dutch custom bike builder Rene van Tuil of Revatu Customs. After eight long months of work, Rene was able to showcase and ride his own steam-powered machine, the Black Pearl.

While Higgins' design was a digital creation, the Black Pearl is an actual motorcycle that could cause wet dreams to diehard steampunk fans. However, despite having the same name as Captain Jack Sparrow's fast ship, the Black Pearl is a machine designed for slow pleasurable rides.

Enjoying the countryside beauty at 8 km/h

The Black Pearl can only do about 8 km/h (5 mph), but apparently this is just the right speed. That is, the right speed for being able to enjoy fully sightseeing in the Dutch countryside and allowing passers-by to get a good glimpse of the bike.

Van Tuil does not say anything about the range of the Black Pearl and how often it needs to replenish its water and fuel reserves, but we'd

rather say these are secondary issues, given how cool this thing looks.

If anything, the suspension looks a bit overkill, as life at 8 km/h is not that demanding as far as shock absorbers go. The front leading axle linkage DOES look awesome, however.

And maybe riding the Revatu Black Pearl in the winter is a much better idea than choo-chooing in the searing sun, as its "stove factor" might turn longer summer rides into open-air sauna sessions.





We hopelessly dream that these breathtaking proper steampunk vehicles could somehow become real bikes manufactured by someone sharing the surprising creative genius of Mikhail Smolyanov.

Steam Engine Motorcycle Concepts Are Fantastic

Mikhail Smolyanov of Solifague Design is not the motorcycle designer you meet everyday. His designs are astoundingly exclusive and boast a kind of unique refinement which is simply rarely met in similar endeavors. And since Xmas is never far, here's Mikhail's steam engine concept mopeds, fit to play a role in any of the most beautiful stories.

There is an amazing thing about these three striking concepts: as crazy and utterly unbelievable as they seem, they've actually been commissioned by a guy in St. Petersburg who wanted to build them and see them ride. Nothing has been heard ever since so we could not tell whether the guy is working to get them in working condition or has just ordered huge prints of them for hanging on his walls.

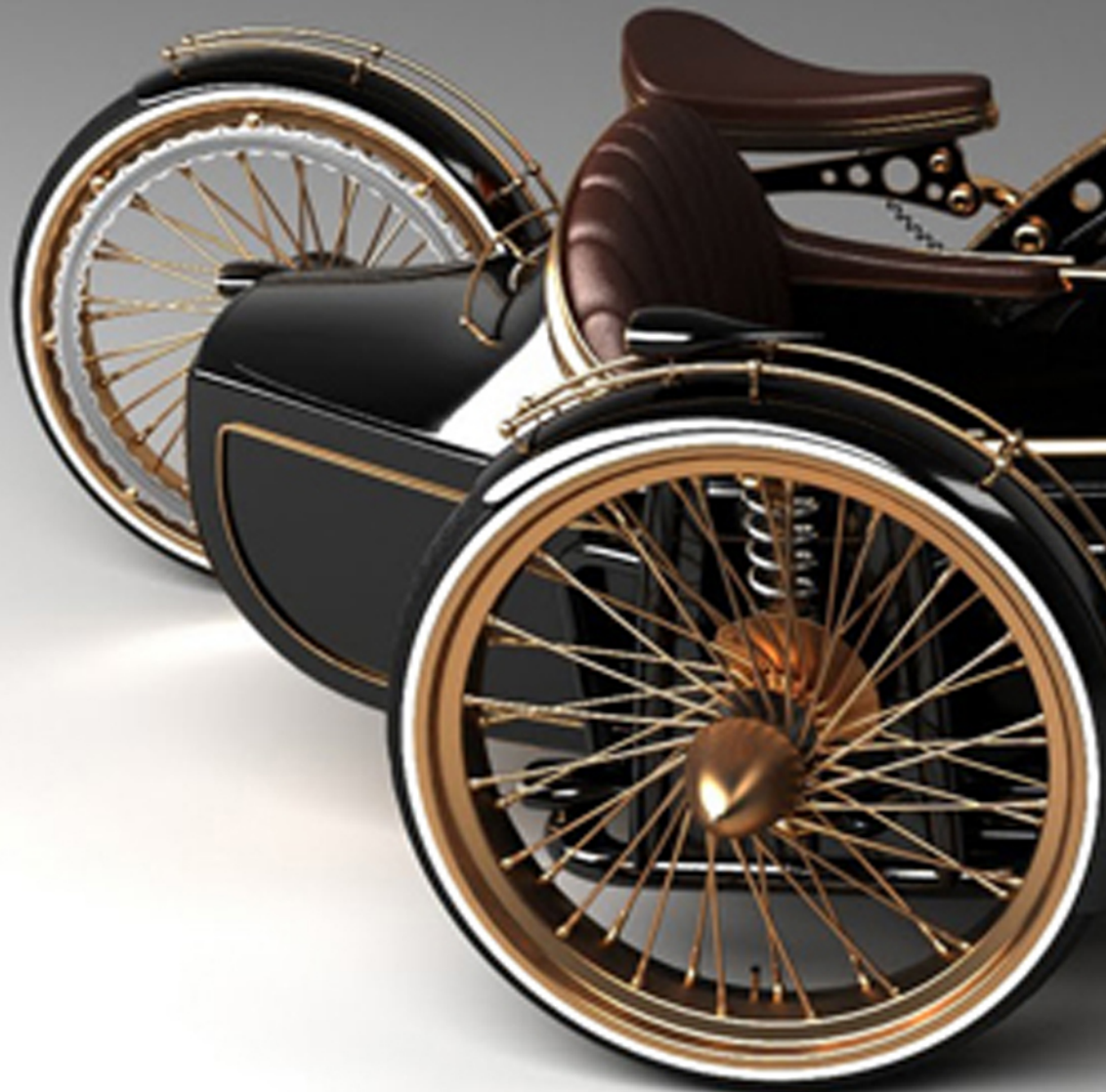
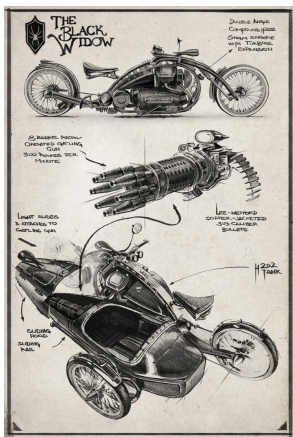
Black Widow with sidecar

Mikhail Smolyanov was commissioned by Richard Monson Haefel, creator of the character Steampunk Holmes, to create this fine piece of transportation.

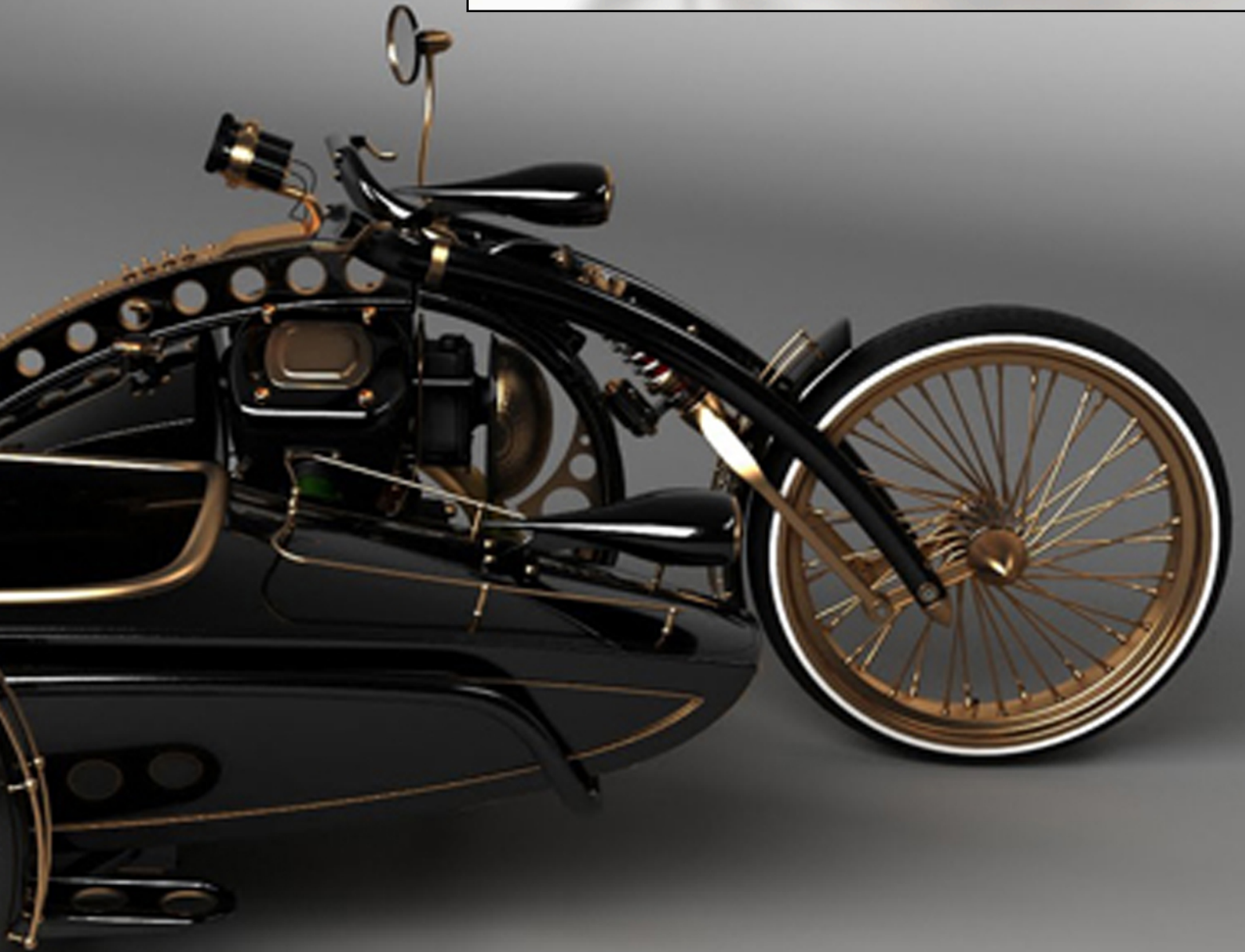
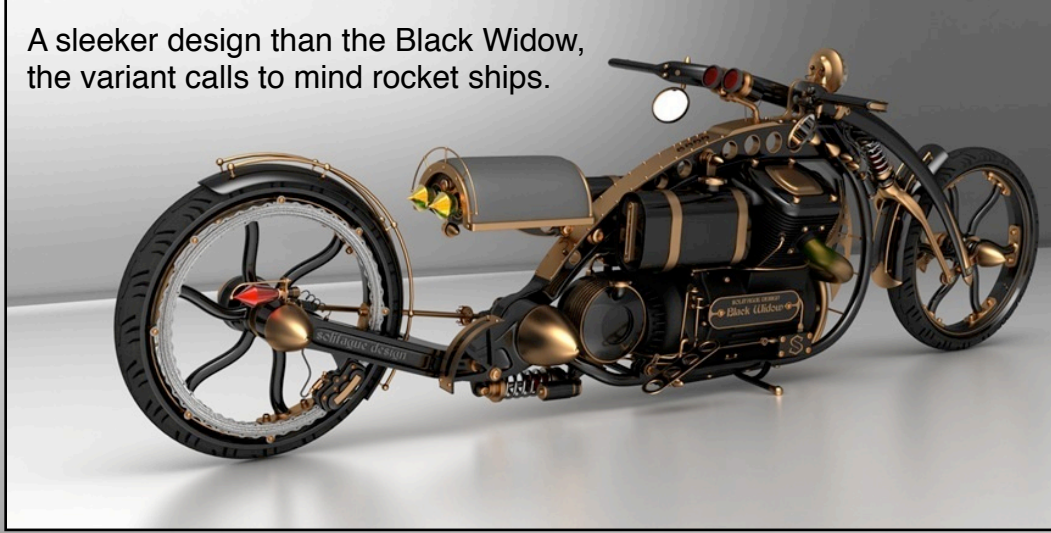
The finished working motorcycles are now sold by Putsch Racing to Monson-Haefel readers.

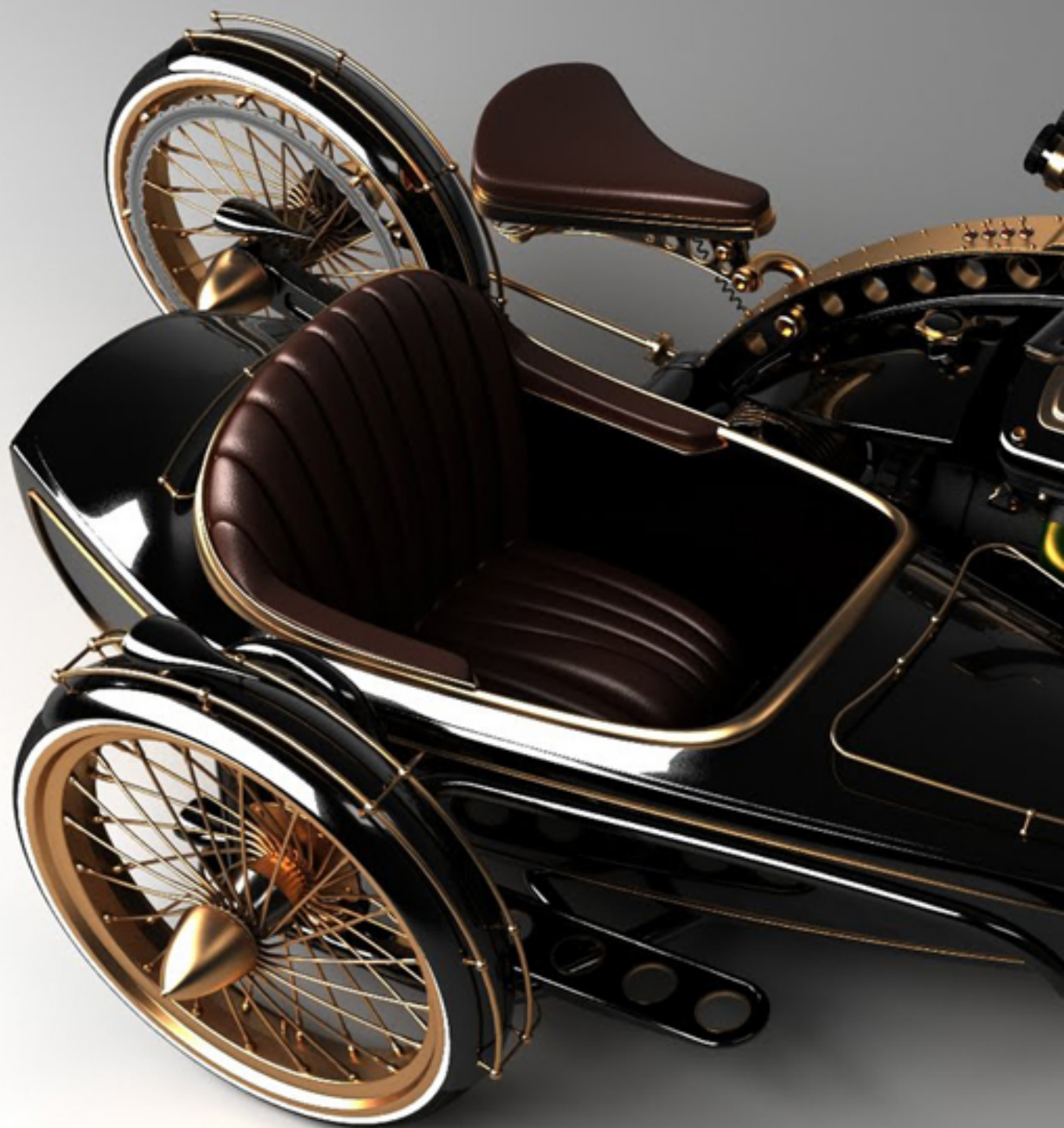
You can also get it without the passenger car.

The Black Widow is Mikhail Smolyanov's most popular steampunk design (in mass production) but it is far from the only one. On his website, the Russian designer shows off a wide variety of motorcycles, from the futuristic to the future-past.



A sleeker design than the Black Widow, the variant calls to mind rocket ships.







**Steampunk Guzzi Black Widow Sidecar
by Solifague Design**

Steampunk Guzzi Black Widow Sidecar
by Solifague Design





Neutilus

THE STEAMPUNK R1200 GS

2014

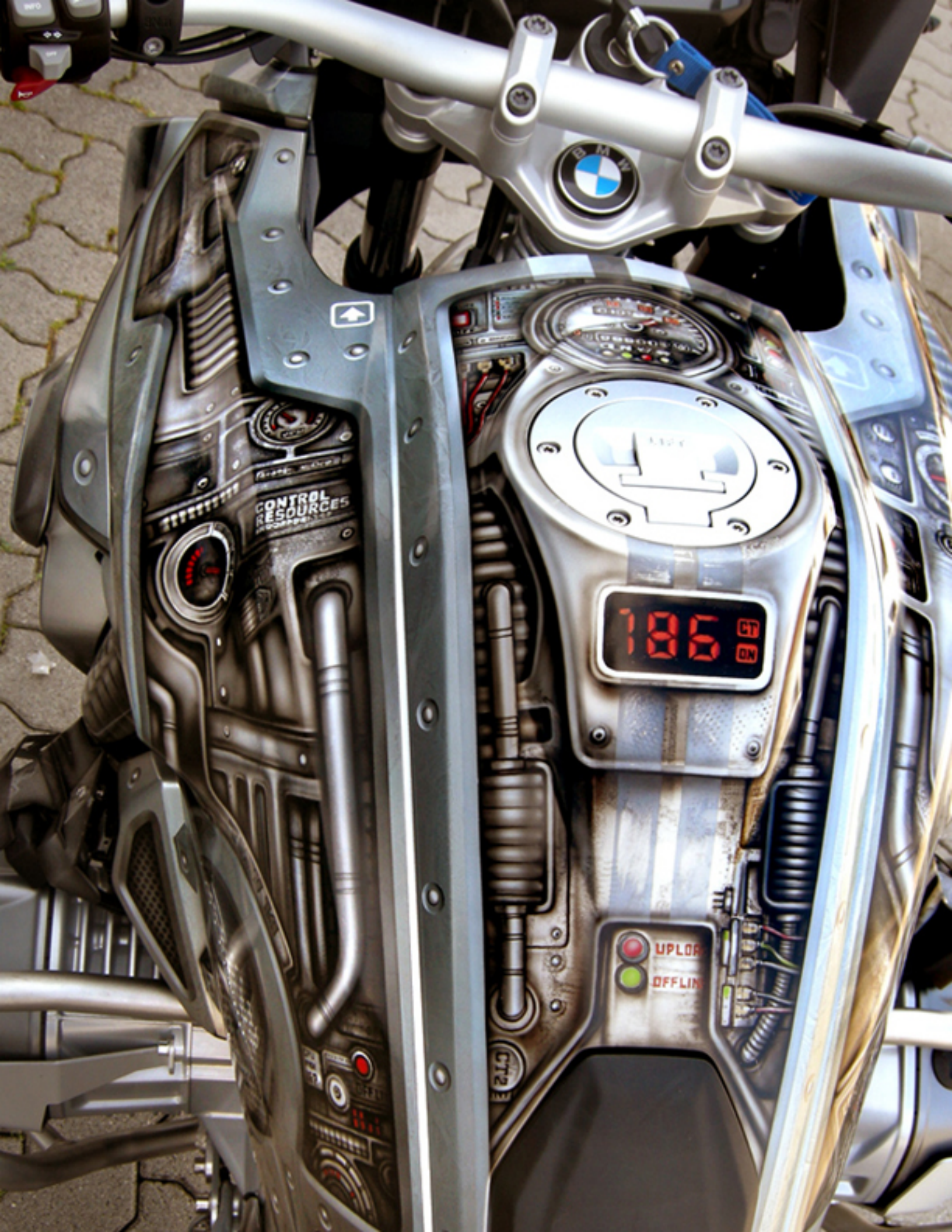


AIRBRUSH ★ BATHOR



BATHORY DESIGN
in Deutschland





CONTROL RESOURCES

186 GT
ON

UPLOADER
OFFLINE

GT23



Like everything in life, if you cannot afford it or do not have the time to invest in a very long creative project you can always go to the faux-fini...

Airbrushing artists can work for any tendance, any style and culture. The R1200GS and these pictures, is the perfect example.

Faux-fini has been around for decades, specially in the home decoration, but when air brush artist brings their specialty and technique to the steampunk world, with their 3D effects, they just make your motorcyle surreal.

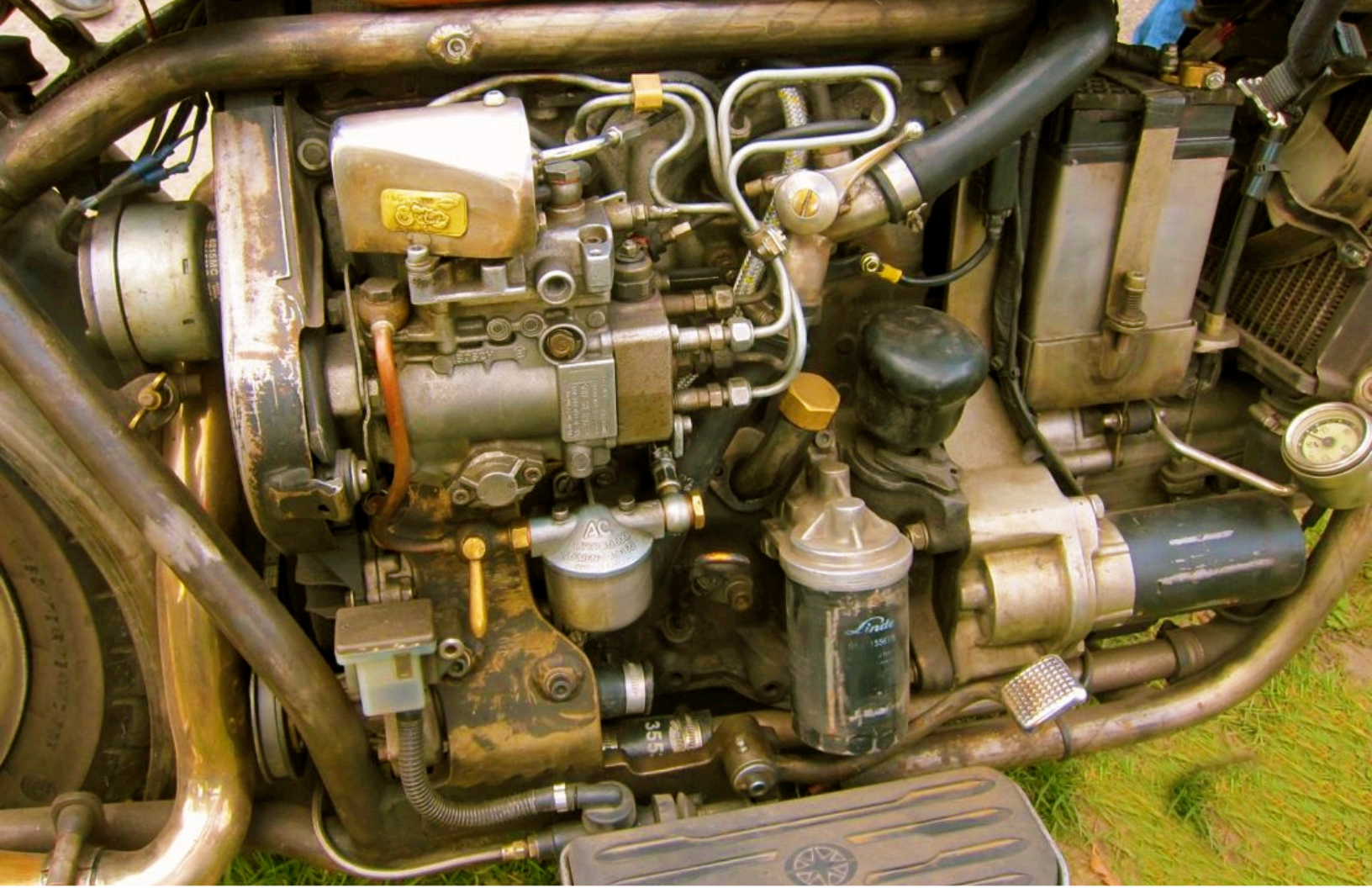
As a result, you get the look, you get to be different and you can ride our roads on a reliable motorbike whilst having hundred of eyes staring at you.



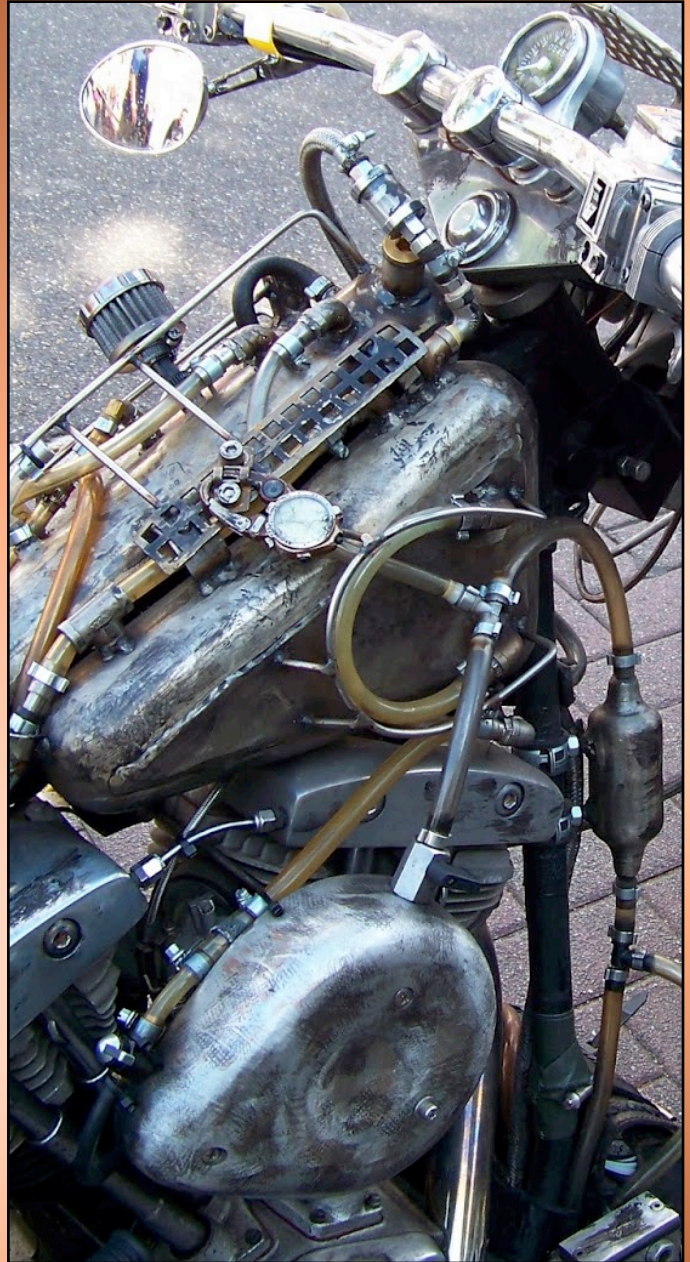
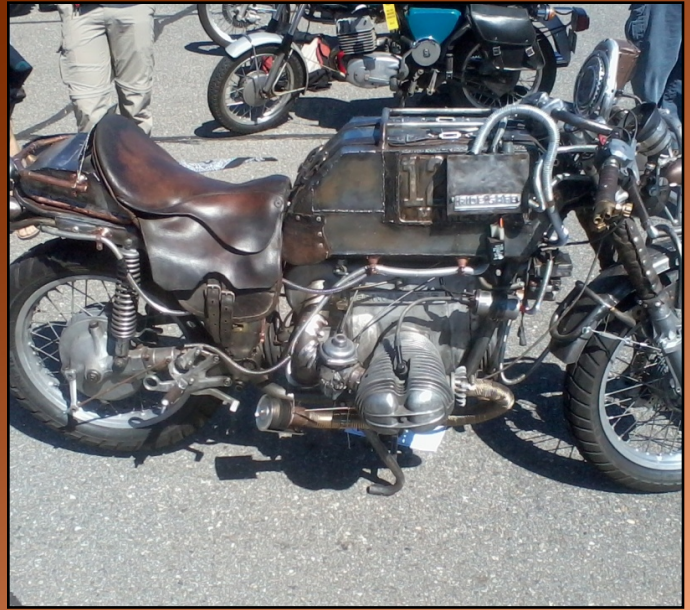


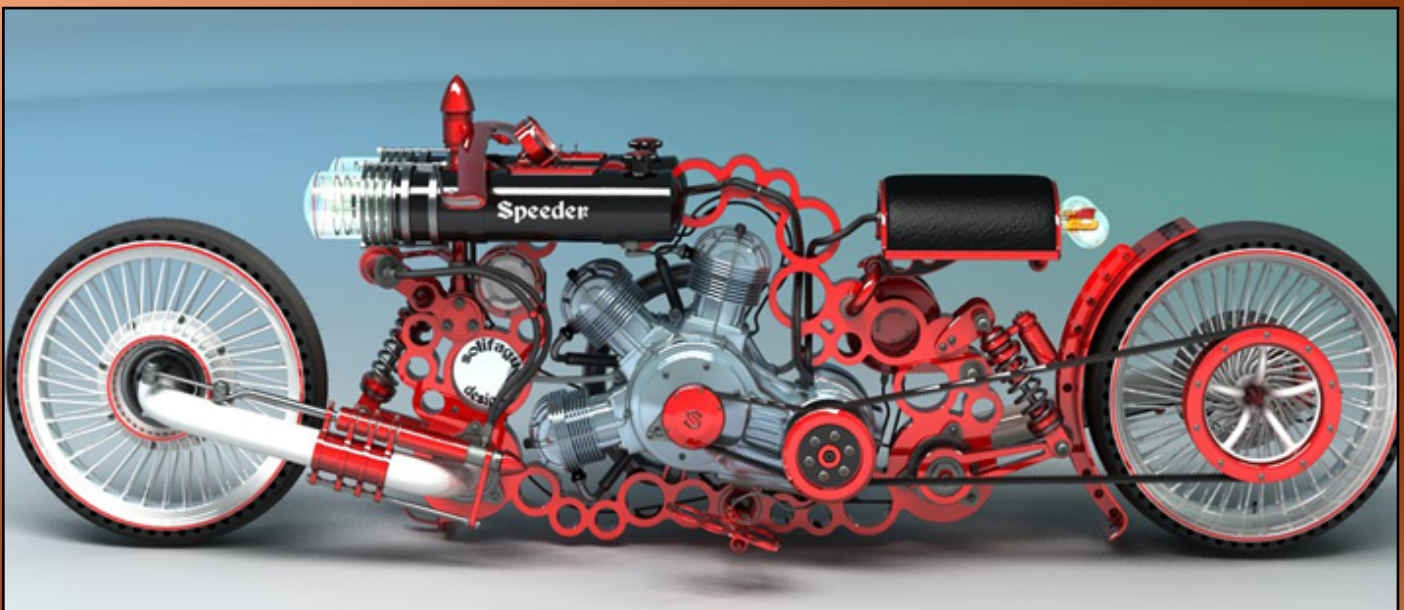
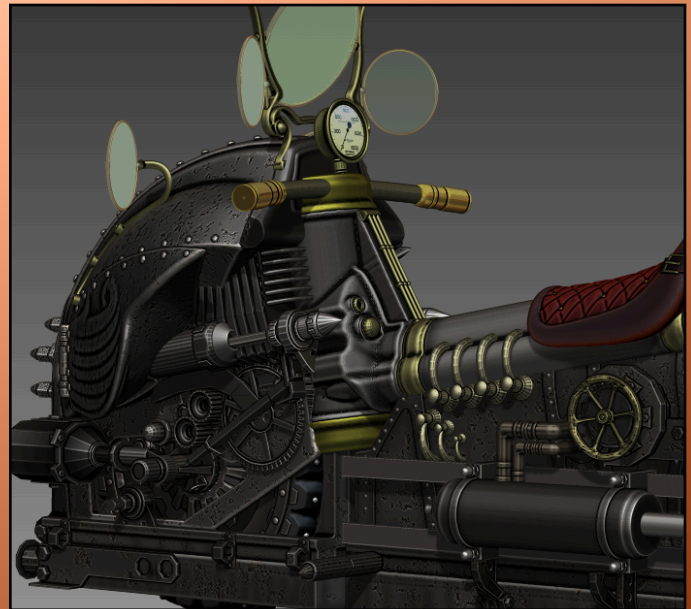
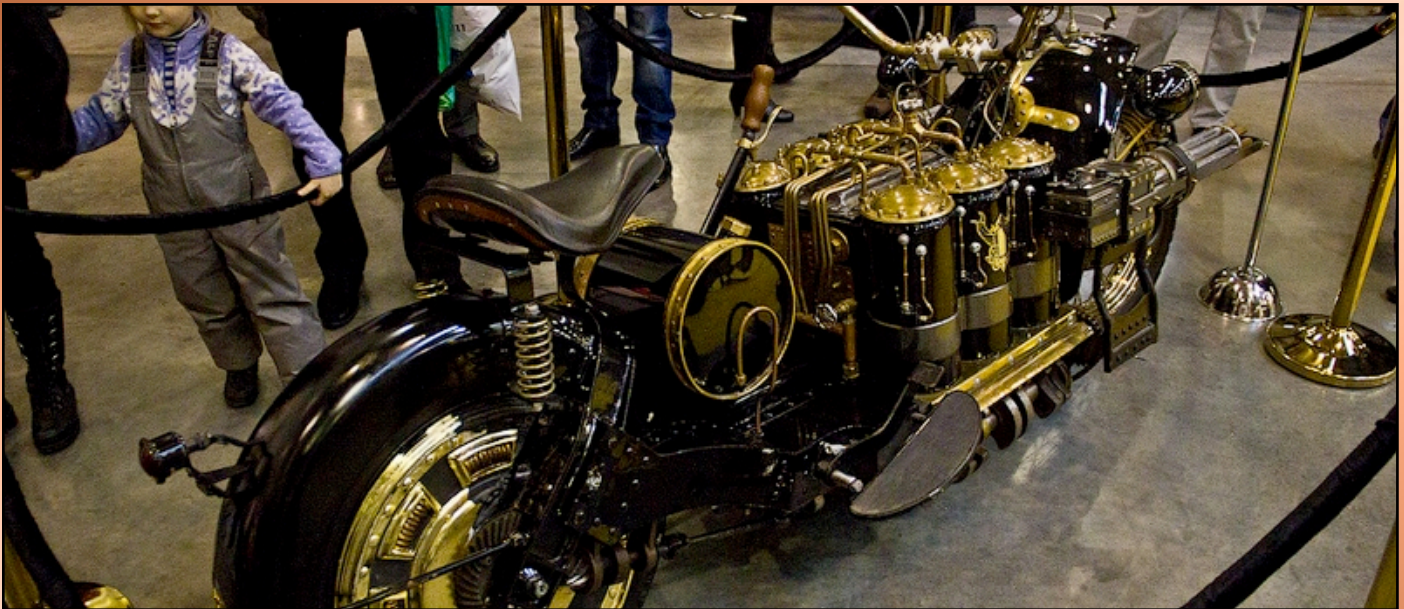
Rat Bike of the Month
VW-Powered Turbo Diesel













Clockwork Concept Design Bike

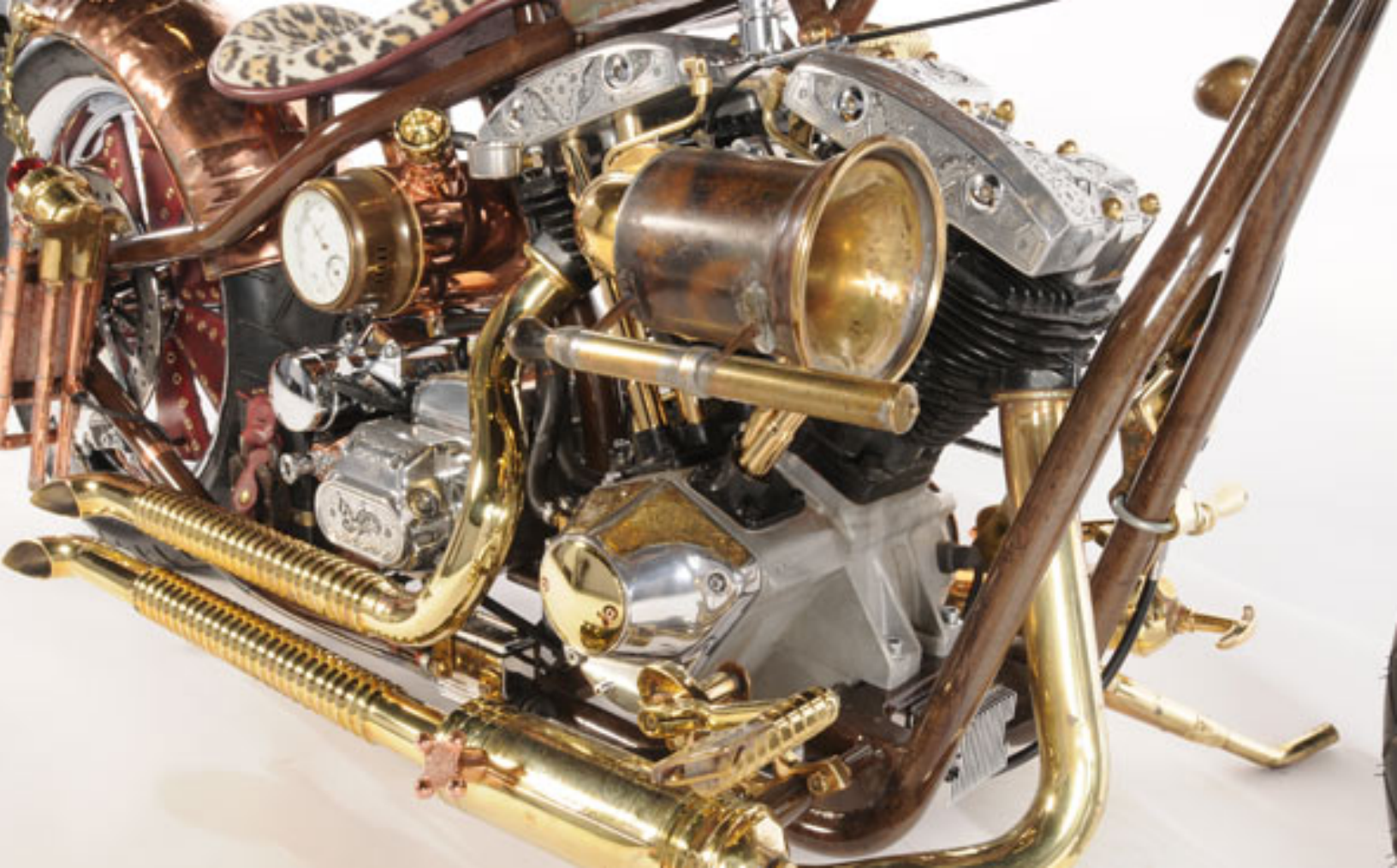
by RK Concept





**COPPER MIKE'S
STEAMPUNK
SHOVELHEAD**





Gravesend Cycles Steampunk Harley-Davidson Found this steampunk-themed Harley-Davidson Shovelhead on the cover of the latest issue of American Iron magazine.

The article's tagline: "What the past would have looked like if the future had started sooner." That pretty much sums up the retro-futurist perspective of steampunk.

This machine is a product of the fertile imagination and talented hands of custom bike builder and master metalsmith Michael Cole, aka "Copper Mike" because he loves to work with that metal.

The level of handcrafted detail in this bike's design is astonishing...

Especially cool was the intricate engraving on the engine.

Copper Mike is the proprietor of Gravesend Cycles in Lindenhurst, NY, where he builds the bikes and creates jewelry, copper art objects, and t-shirts.



Petit's Flug, a BMW R1200GS Boxer-Powered Fighter Aircraft Concept

Surprise is usually something one does not really expect, but when the imagination of Nicolas Petit comes into discussion, the borders between fiction and reality, between what's feasible and what's only a beautiful dream start to get blurry. Here's his vision of a fictional fighter plane powered by the iconic R1200 BMW boxer engine.

Smooth, fluid lines and a clean design are a trademark for Petit's concepts and the Flug (German for Flight) is no exception.

Sporting the same neo-retro attire so many steampunk fans love to meet in such crazy machines, the Flug is a seducing dream. Seemingly more suited for a majestic appearance in a video game, this concept shows real-life engineering cues.



The engine was rotated 180 degrees to power the propeller directly, while the air filters would in such a scenario also provide some RAM-Air intake effect for increased combustion. Nicolas adds a funny remark, too: given the nature of such a machine, a lightweight build is critical, so he chose a centrifugal clutch.

If only such a contraption could become real, can you even begin to fathom the possibilities...

FROM JUNK TO STEAMPUNK HONDA CB750 'DOUGLAS' BY ATOMIC CONTRACTIONS.

Article by Martin Hodgson

Source: Pipeburn.com



The Australian island state of Tasmania has a reputation for incredible scenery, crisp clean air and some of the best handcrafted gourmet food and drink you'll find anywhere in the world. But with its isolation the residents have always been a resourceful bunch, preferring to repurpose to fill a void than wait for parts from the mainland.

Now enter resident Andrew Knott, a creative force, designer, photographer and sometimes bike builder

who operates from within the spinning world of his workplace, Atomic Contraptions.

With all of that combined, his latest offering was never going to be conventional; it's equal measures bobber and steampunk, materials old and new, all whizzed up and turning out a 1972 Honda CB750 called Douglas.





"I don't know where it came from, but at around 3am one morning I had a fleeting idea for a solo saddle seat made from Chesterfield style leather wrapped over a timber seat pan. With the timber only really being able to be seen from underneath, like a little hidden detail. There was something about that leather upholstery with timber backing that I really liked, something reminiscent of a French riviera cruiser... and by about 4 am, I decided I probably needed to find a bike to go with it," Andrew recalls. The Honda was found on the mainland, deemed in bad enough condition to be ok for customisation and cheap enough to be shipped to Tassie.



When it arrived it was clear the previous owner had perhaps left the bike underwater for a good few decades. The wheels were rusted all the way through, the 'hard tailed' frame used wooden slugs that were now rotten, metal cancer was everywhere and for good measure the cam had sheered a lobe and torn the engine to shreds. Most of us would have called the scrap metal yard to come and get it, but they're cut from a different cloth on the apple isle. To repair the frame a lower engine mount section was donated by a fellow enthusiast and Andrew did the hardtail right this time with a kit from TC Bros.

To get the classic Honda engine running again it had to be pulled down to every last piece and thankfully the crank and gearbox had miraculously survived. So after it had all be cleaned, a new set of 836cc pistons were slotted in along with all new bearings. A replacement head was sourced and fitted out with new valves, springs and guides before getting a mild port job. Heavy-duty studs pull it all together, but not before a mild cam was fitted and new chains added to the mix. While the fuelling comes from rebuilt carbs and the exhaust is a sweet 4 into 1 with a reverse cone muffler suitably barking mad.

The rotted out rims meant a switch to 16in Harley items laced with copper-plated spokes and wrapped with white walls the visuals could now take shape. *“I wanted to go for a really classic turn-of-the-century aesthetic but offset with a few modern touches and a futuristic lighting scheme. Kind of like a rolling gentlemen’s smoking lounge... think chesterfields, bankers lamps, timber floors, single malt and casual misogyny... with a bit of Tron thrown in. The hardtail and inverted levers were a bit of a nod to this era, and to achieve the latter I had to convert the front brake to a cable operated remote master cylinder set up.”*

At the other end of the spectrum, the lighting is based on the futuristic LED halo headlight that’s fitted inside a vintage carbide lamp. The taillight gets a similar treatment with a bicycle carbide lamp used and converted to electric. All this wizardry was performed by Andrew’s father who made it possible by mating up a Motogadget m-unit to a Lucas style switch that sits in the centre of the fuel tank and controls the magic. While more ultra old school parts like the Fergie tractor fuel filter, now the petcock and a brass urn as the oil tank all add to the flare; no ashes still inside we hope!

“Tasmanian Blackwood and Huon Pine provided the contrast of light and dark timber I wanted for the battery box, gauge backs, seat and main switch

surround.” His father-in-law and a family friend showed Andrew the woodworking ropes and a place to turn those gauge surrounds. “Given the whole process started with a Riviera Cruiser vibe for the seat, achieving a high gloss finish on all the timber became a bit of an obsession.” Topping the seat is the very Australian Kangaroo leather finished in a diamond pleat. All of which took the weekend, wrestling skippy skin, foam and timber base with the help of his talented wife.

The name of the bike comes from Andrew’s late grandfather Douglas, who served in the RAAF during WWII and in his honour the buttons on the seat come from an air force uniform and the tank strap from a Sam Browne belt. The fuel tank was a trade with a neighbour while some of the endless parts adapted to fit include copper goblets, now indicators and a classic sight gauge monitors the fuel.

It’s all about the authenticity of real materials, even the steel parts are protected by old school gun browning and cold bluing. Each part has a story to tell; you have to truly sit back and drink it all in, preferably with a fine cigar and Tasmanian Whiskey. That’s the charm of Atomic Contraptions, once you’ve admired the inventive insanity, you’ve got a hot rod to ride that’ll stir your soul from the seat of your pants.



THE SHATNER INSPIRED RIVET ONE

(STEAMPUNK TRIKE FROM THE FUTURE)

doesn't work but it is a Force for Good.





Star of the stage and screen William Shatner has traversed the U.S. many times, and in many forms, but he's never done so on a motorcycle. The 84 year-old actor wanted to tick that off his list, but Shatner wasn't going to do things Easy Rider-style, he planned to do so in his own custom motorcycle... sort of.

According to an interview in Motor Trend, a staff member from American Wrench custom motorcycle shop met the Canadian film and television actor at an autograph signing, suggesting to him that his crew would build a custom bike for him, to which Shatner took him up on.

What American Wrench designed from Shatner's vision is the Rivet One, a three-wheeled chopper powered by a V8 that the actor planned to ride from Chicago to Los Angeles after its completion sometime in the summer of 2015. Design mockups of the Rivet showed that it was indeed loaded with a bunch of rivets, with the V8 mounted in-between the passenger and front wheel, but these were most likely going to be the only traits that would end up on the final product: it turned out Bill can get pretty far out with his ideas.

On a Vimeo channel dedicated to promoting the Rivet, Shatner is seen explaining some of the things he wants to see in the final build, including a redesign that incorporates a closed canopy and seating for two.

When William Shatner laid out his plans to create a V8-powered, steampunk trike with two yokes and squeeze triggers for controls we assumed it wouldn't work. Unfortunately we were right. But that hasn't stopped Shatner from trailering the Rivet from Chicago to Los Angeles for an awesome cause.

According to the man himself, the steering assembly on the Rivet promptly broke after the trike was originally shown to the press.

So instead of delaying his 2,400-mile trek along Route 66, his crew packed up the trike for the trip, Shatner threw a leg over a back-up motorcycle, and joined riders from the American Legion for the run.

The American Legion angle was the real reason for the cross-country run, raising awareness for the Legacy Fund, a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to the children of U.S. service members that were killed in the line of duty during the attacks of September 11.

Shatner, along with his wife, the American Legion riders, and the builders of the Rivet – American Wrench – left Illinois on June 2015 and landed in LA. A documentary crew came along for the ride, with a flick planned to be released in 2016.

7 Reasons Why Steampunk Is Totally “Now” *by Desirina Boskovich*

1. It's the perfect mash-up genre for a culture obsessed with mixing and remixing, fanfic, memes, and 'shipping.

Gotham. Sleepy Hollow. Bates Motel. Guardians of the Galaxy. Fifty Shades of Grey. Kindle Worlds. Lately, we really seem to be into creative takes on the old classics. And Steampunk is like the ultimate mash-up genre — both futuristic and retro. Plus, it's got room for anything and everything fandom's little heart can dream up: Aliens and AIs, zeppelins and zombies, pirates and corsets, goggles and gaslights, mad scientists and scullery maids. It's romance, horror, science fiction, fantasy, and adventure (and even occasionally a whodunit or a spaghetti western). Basically, it's the kind of structured yet flexible framework that allows for endless reinvention, and it rewards experimentation within the shared yet ever-evolving universe of the alternate past.

2. It's all about getting back to the basics.

We're in the middle of a massive generational shift, originally led by a hipster vanguard but now becoming mainstream: what's old is new again. Gen X'ers and Millennials are raising urban chickens, dipping candles, planting vegetable gardens in their front yards, canning jam, keeping bees, sewing their own clothes, and rediscovering the joys of an old-fashioned shave. Part of it is practicality; these are valuable skills to learn, practice, and pass on, based on the kind of folk knowledge that can get lost forever if it's not carefully preserved. Part of it is just the zany, passionate joy of developing an expertise, and making something practical and beautiful with your own hands. Anyway, Steampunk totally fits into this larger picture — whether its aficionados are restoring a vintage typewriter, creating historically accurate costuming, or painstakingly modding a Victorian PC.

3. It's a much-needed countercultural aesthetic for design.

Today's futurism all looks like Apple: slick, shiny, hyper minimalist. All form on the outside, all function on the inside. You can't tell, from looking at it, exactly what an iPad does - and you're not supposed to. You're also not supposed to be able to take it apart, tweak it a bit, and put it back together. The guts are entirely self-contained.

This style can be attractive, but it's also become completely mainstream. So certain visually hungry types are searching for something distinctive... something more. The Steampunk design aesthetic? It's minimalism's polar opposite. The guts of a Steampunk machine are on the outside. You can see the function, you can see the bells and whistles, you can see how it does what it does. You can also see how to take it apart and make it better. Plus, it looks old; it revels in a sense of history, of having been somewhere, of having lasted and endured through a long, long time. It's scratched and scuffed and stained, and like its function, it wears its history on the outside.

4. It's both global and local.

In the past couple years, Steampunk has become an international movement. The Steampunk User's Manual includes wonderful contributions from artists and Steampunkers in France, UK, Brazil, Czech Republic, India, Scotland, Serbia, Poland, Hong Kong, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, and more. This diverse global community is communicating and sharing, getting together online and passing around their favorite imagery and newest work, collaborating to publish anthologies with Steampunk stories in translation, and fueling each others' creativity with a profusion of cultural influences and historical context.

At the same time, each local community tends to be closely knit, maintaining their own unique local “flavor.” In Brooklyn you’ve got the fantastically decorated, ever-so-classy and sophisticated Steampunk bars where patrons flaunt their finery and top-level mixologists ply their trade. Meanwhile in Oakland, you’ve got a rougher-edged kind of Steampunk (extra emphasis on the “punk”) that focuses on the DIY side, with masterfully outfitted machine shops where makers and tinkerers build awesome contraptions from scratch.

5. It’s class conscious.

We live in an era of massive inequality and an exponentially increasing gap between the rich and the poor. While some movements like Occupy address the inequality head on, science fiction and fantasy have always provided a means for writers and artists to critique their society indirectly. (Just look at *The Hunger Games*.) Steampunk takes place in another period of massive inequality — the Victorian Era and the Gilded Age, a time when lords and ladies dressed in absurd regalia lounged in luxury while a permanent underclass shoveled the coal that fueled their society and starving urchins begged for bread in the streets. Many Steampunk writers are drawing on this obvious metaphor to our current age and exploring pressing social issues. Of course, not everyone is using Steampunk in this way - some simply see the past with the rose-tinted glasses of nostalgia, or find it easy to imagine themselves as the lucky lords and ladies — but as Steampunk “grows up,” so to speak, it’s increasingly becoming a tool for critique.

6. It’s eco-conscious.

At Steampunk’s core is an obsession with the environmentalist’s battle cry: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle. Steampunk is based on an appreciation for reclaiming something old and making it new again, for cherishing the

long-lasting and well-made over the slick, disposable, and new. Throughout *The Steampunk User’s Manual*, artists and designers explain how they’ve reclaimed vintage materials, from wood and metal to glass and cloth, to create their handiworks.

And while we’re recovering still-sound antique items from the scrap heap (or at the very least, the thrift shops and consignment stores), we can also look to the past for still-sound ideas about the future that just might make sense for us today. In an era before mass production, physical items and artifacts were made well and made to last, not designed to be used once or twice and then thrown away, relegated to a landfill. In many ways, we’ve made a lot of progress since then, socially, culturally, and technologically. But perhaps the past does still hold a few nuggets of wisdom for us about how to live more scalable, sustainable lives.

7. Your individuality is Steampunk’s strength.

Steampunk is customizable and flexible, with a “start where you are” mentality that makes it incredibly easy to join in, whatever point you’re starting from. You can approach it through the medium of storytelling (fiction, films, comic books), or fashion (a dash of vintage flair in your outfit, or full-on cosplay), or interior design (DIY... or hire the experts, a few of whom are profiled in the book). You can hop on Etsy and order a custom-made corset... or search out popular Steampunk bands on Spotify. It’s OK if your budget is limited, or if your skill set is still developing, or if your top interest is something completely specific and random — like Steampunk postage stamps. Steampunk is a big friendly movement, and you can jump in anywhere and anytime you like.

Desirina Boskovich is the co-author of

The Steampunk User’s Manual





STEAMPUNK PENNY FARTHING
Sergey Varenjnikov



THE STEAMPUNK EXPLORER

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About Us

The Steampunk Explorer is an online magazine and resource directory for steampunk enthusiasts and creators.

You'll find stories about people, places and events in the steampunk world, as well as guides to retail outlets, museums, galleries, eateries, and other attractions in 37 North American regions, with more to come.

The site also includes a comprehensive calendar of events in North America and the UK. And we have several pages of resources for artists, writers, and people with an interest in 19th century history. The site launched in March 2018.

Although this site is aimed primarily at steampunks, anyone with an interest in science-fiction, fantasy, alternate history, maker culture, or historical tourism is likely to find useful information here. At least that's our hope.

About the Creator

This site is produced by Stephen Beale, a writer and editor who resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. I've been a science-fiction fan since adolescence, and a steampunk fan (without knowing it) since "The Wild Wild West" began airing in the 1960s. In my long professional life as a journalist, I've helped to launch several publications for my employers, and this is my opportunity to launch one of my own. Learn more from my [personal website](#) and my [LinkedIn profile](#).

Additional Information

STEAMPUNK-EXPLORER.COM

The Typhoon: An obsessively built steampunk board-track superbike



By Loz Blain

Old Empire Motorcycles, a custom builder from Norfolk, UK, spared no time or expense on this piece. Starting life as a Ducati 900SS, the Typhoon is a rolling monument to British craftsmanship, with a distinct retro-futuristic steampunk twist.

As a custom builder, the OEM team typically takes customer bikes and customizes them to a brief and a budget. The results are great, the workmanship and

materials are top notch, and the prevailing aesthetic is part Brough Superior, part leather satchel, part modern hipster cafe racer.

An overabundance of grinder sparks in some of the promo videos dates them firmly in the skinny pants, burly bearded era of the mid-noughteens.

But when you're building bikes to spec for a customer, you're working within restraints.



So the OEM team occasionally makes something of their own, without any such limits. Meet the Typhoon.

The L-twin engine, and bits of the trellis frame here, were pulled from a Ducati 900SS Super Sport.

The rest very clearly isn't.

The attention to detail on this bike is pretty extraordinary.

Let's pick the right handgrip on its droopy board tracker-style handlebar: It's



thinly leather-wrapped, and features a reverse brake lever, a custom-machined thumb start and a bevel-driven throttle wire that looks a bit like a high-end bicycle bell.

Or there's the girder forks, finished in the same deep cherrywood paint job as the trellis frame and tank.

They feature a friction-based damping system you can tighten and loosen with a pair of big, brass nuts about the size you'd need to ride this thing.

Typically, brakes just make you go slow, but the Old Empire team chose stylish drum brakes for the front and rear, which will do no such thing.

Razor-thin tires and a hardtail back end will make whatever power that Ducati donk makes (it's about 85 horses in stock form) feel wildly excessive.

The brass bell headlamp and cute battery satchel, the handbuilt butt-wedge of a

seat and huge brass steering stem cap – they all mesh together into some kind of retro-futuristic lightweight steampunk superbike, as pretty as it would be punishing to ride.

I'm not always a fan of impractical customs, but I reckon this one's a work of art, and the pick of a very nice British bunch over at the Old Empire Motorcycles website. Bravo, chaps.

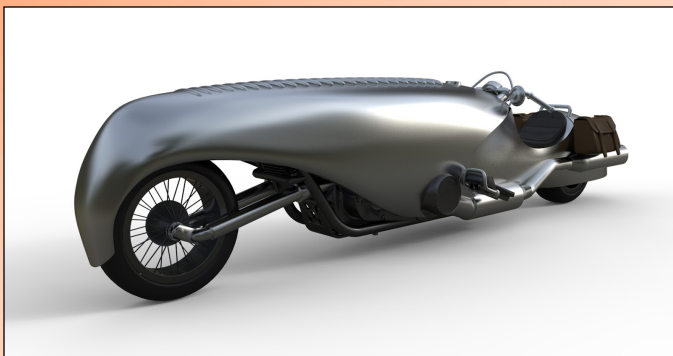
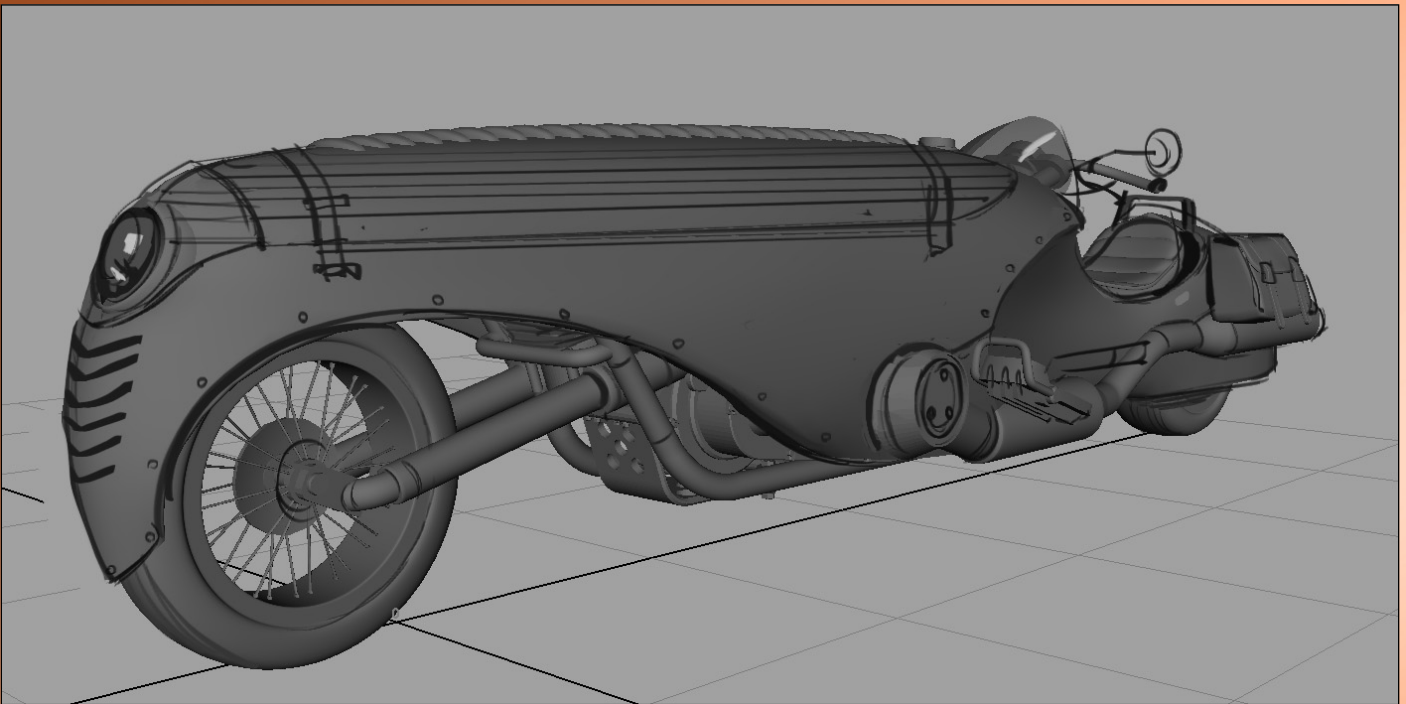


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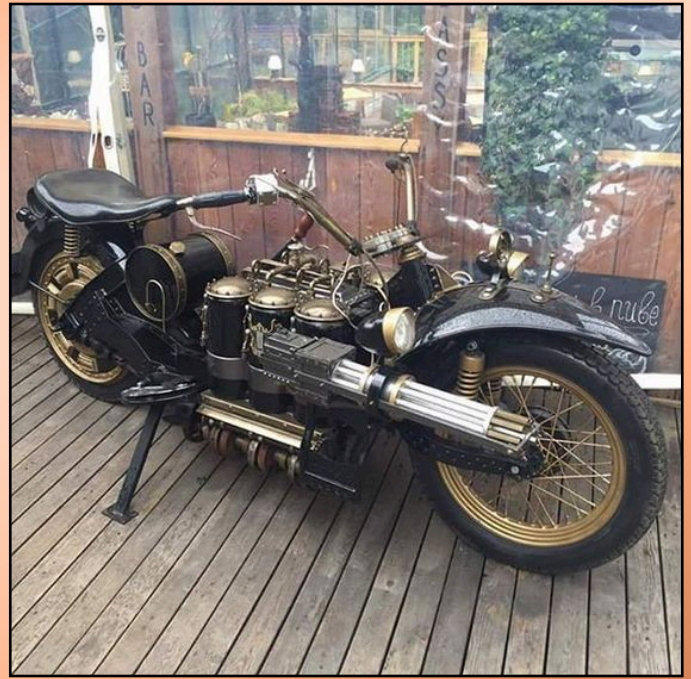
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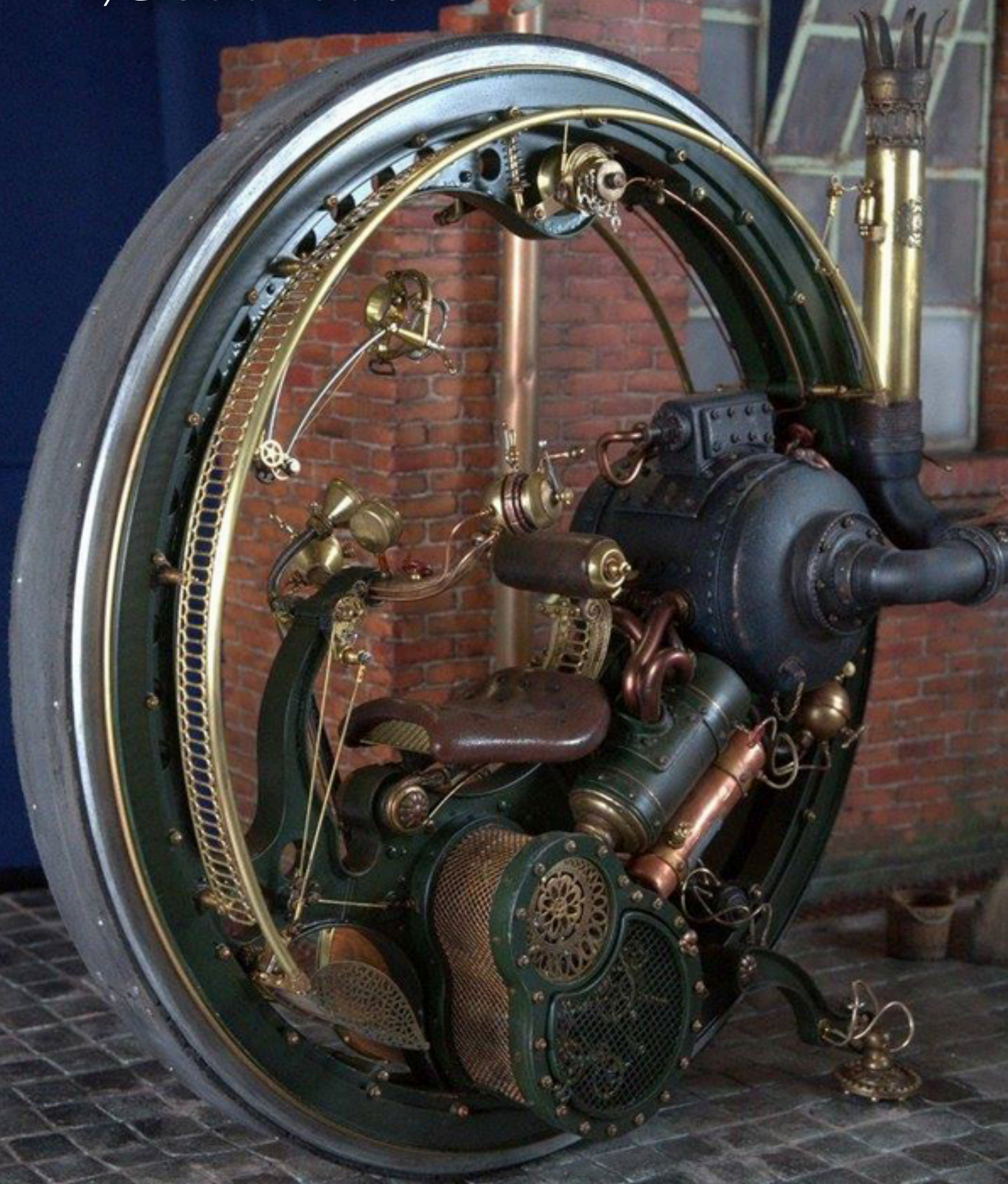


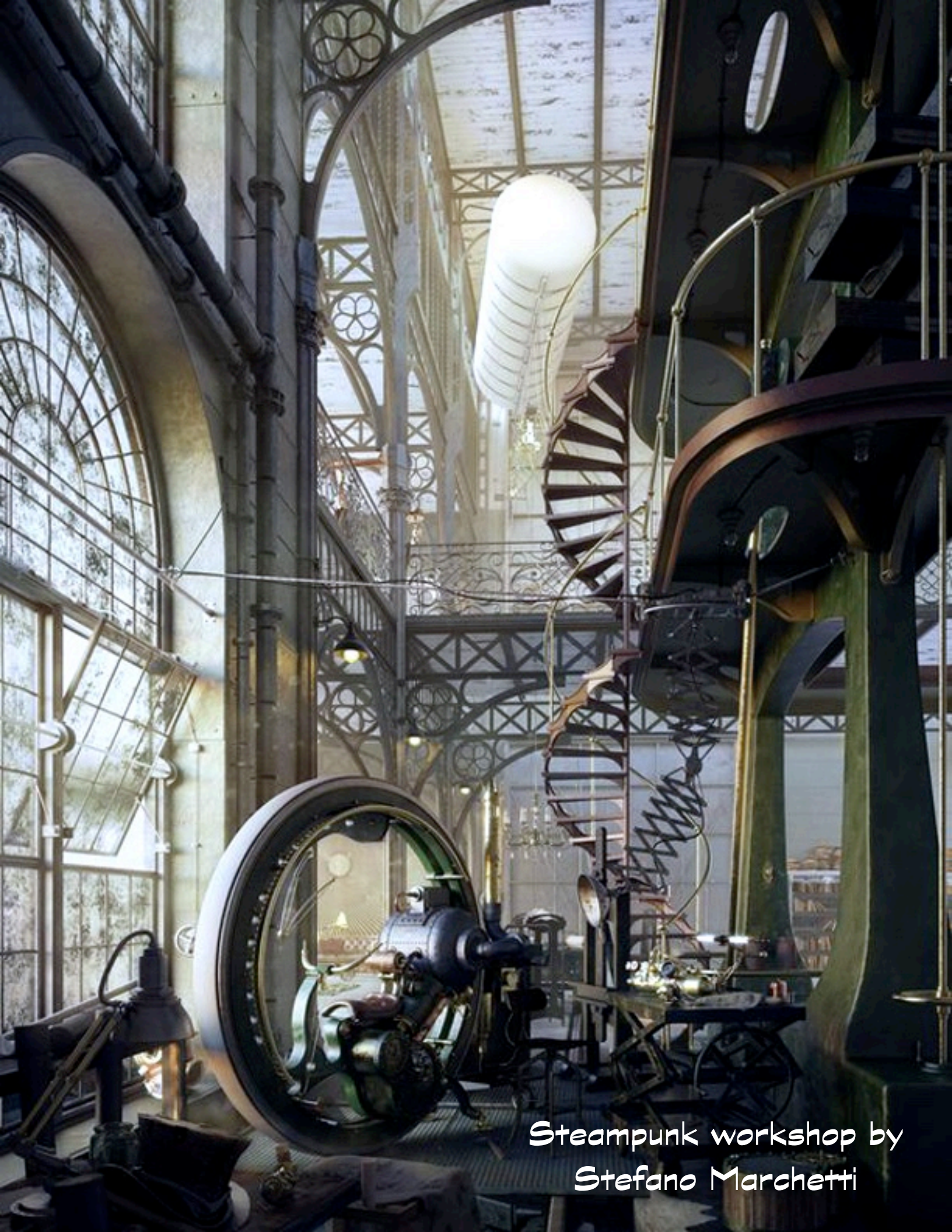
**Fairly cool concept by Nick Carver.
“The Silver Dagger”**

Nick wanted to design a motorbike that was inspired by dueling pistols and ceremonial daggers, I'd say he succeeded. What do you think?



Modern Steam Monobike 1896
by Stefano Marchetti





Steampunk workshop by
Stefano Marchetti

The Good Ghost

This gorgeous custom BMW R100 motorcycle with steampunk-inspired design comes with a wine bottle compartment and a century-old silverware set.

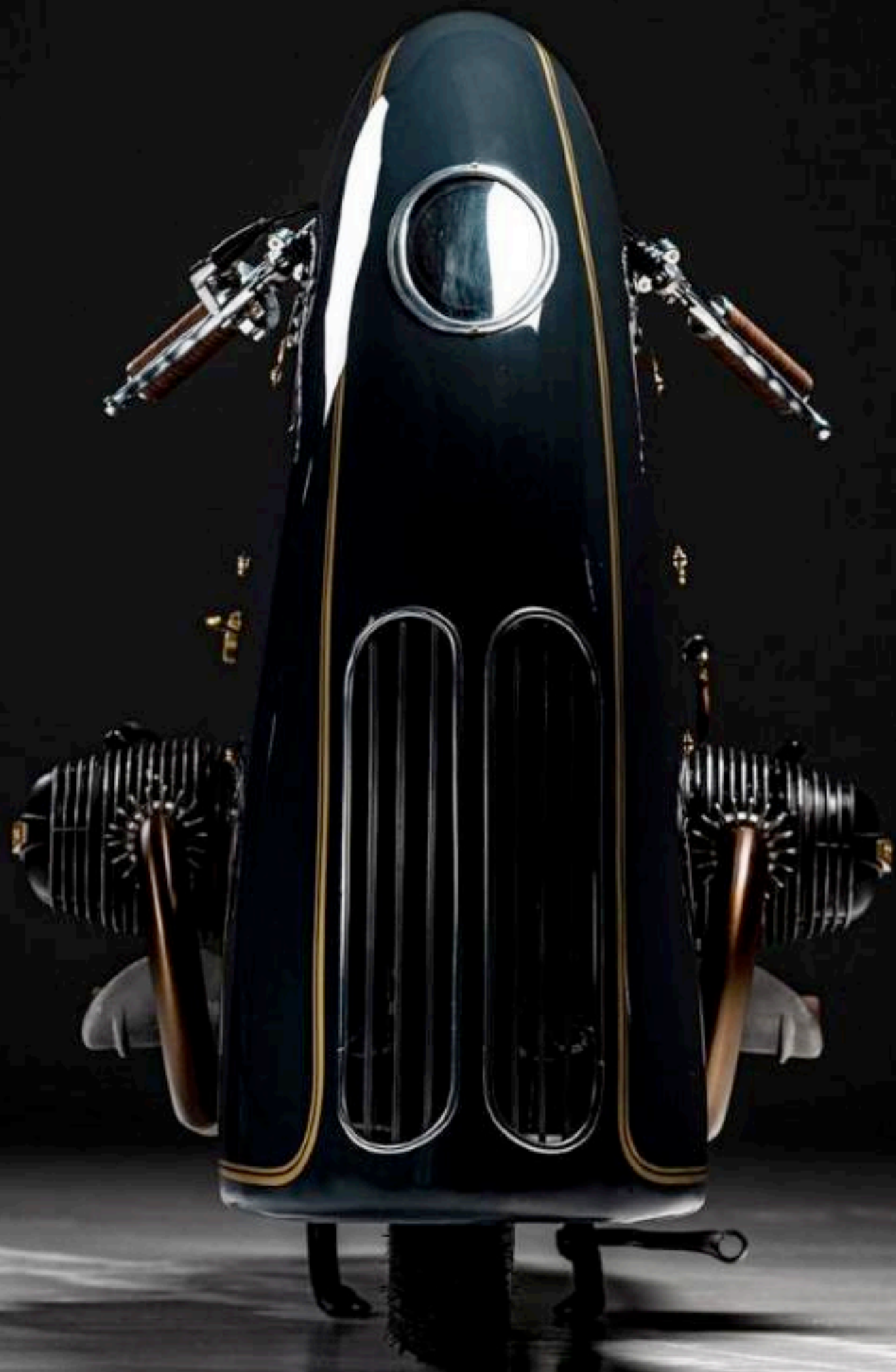


Meet the Good Ghost, a stunning custom motorcycle that was created out of a 1980 BMW R100 RS by Dirk Oehlerking of Kingston Customs. The motorbike with a whiff of steampunk styling is the third installment in Oehlerking's Phantom series, which started with the White Phantom four years ago and was followed by the sleeker and a more refined Black Phantom. Unlike the previous two Phantom motorcycles, the Good Ghost has an old-school streamliner look with a full-body cladding that extends from front to back and also covers both the wheels; just the iconic BMW boxer-twin engine juts out of the full-length fender giving the motorcycle a very unique look. The entire body paneling is painstakingly hand-shaped using 2mm-thick aluminum sheet and it looks like the cloak of a ghost, thus earning the name 'Good Ghost.'

In typical Kingston Custom fashion, no changes have been made to the original chassis of the BMW R100 RS. The front has a single headlight that sits flush with the bodywork, along with BMW's signature split kidney grille. Another unique design element of the custom bike is its leather seat that extends all the way from the headstock to the tail section and also incorporates the instrument gauges. However, because of this design feature, the fuel tank had to be customized. Dirk fabricating a small fuel cell that is located behind the transmission and has an external fuel pump. There's plenty of storage space on the motorcycle as well. The seat lifts off to reveal a compartment that stores a bottle of wine and a glass, while a corkscrew and a spare spark-plug is neatly stowed in the opening mechanism. There are two flaps on each side of the rear wheel with one of them storing a comprehensive toolkit and the other one hides a selection of century-old silverware. The custom motorcycle was commissioned by the Haas Moto Museum in Dallas, Texas where it will be put up on display.





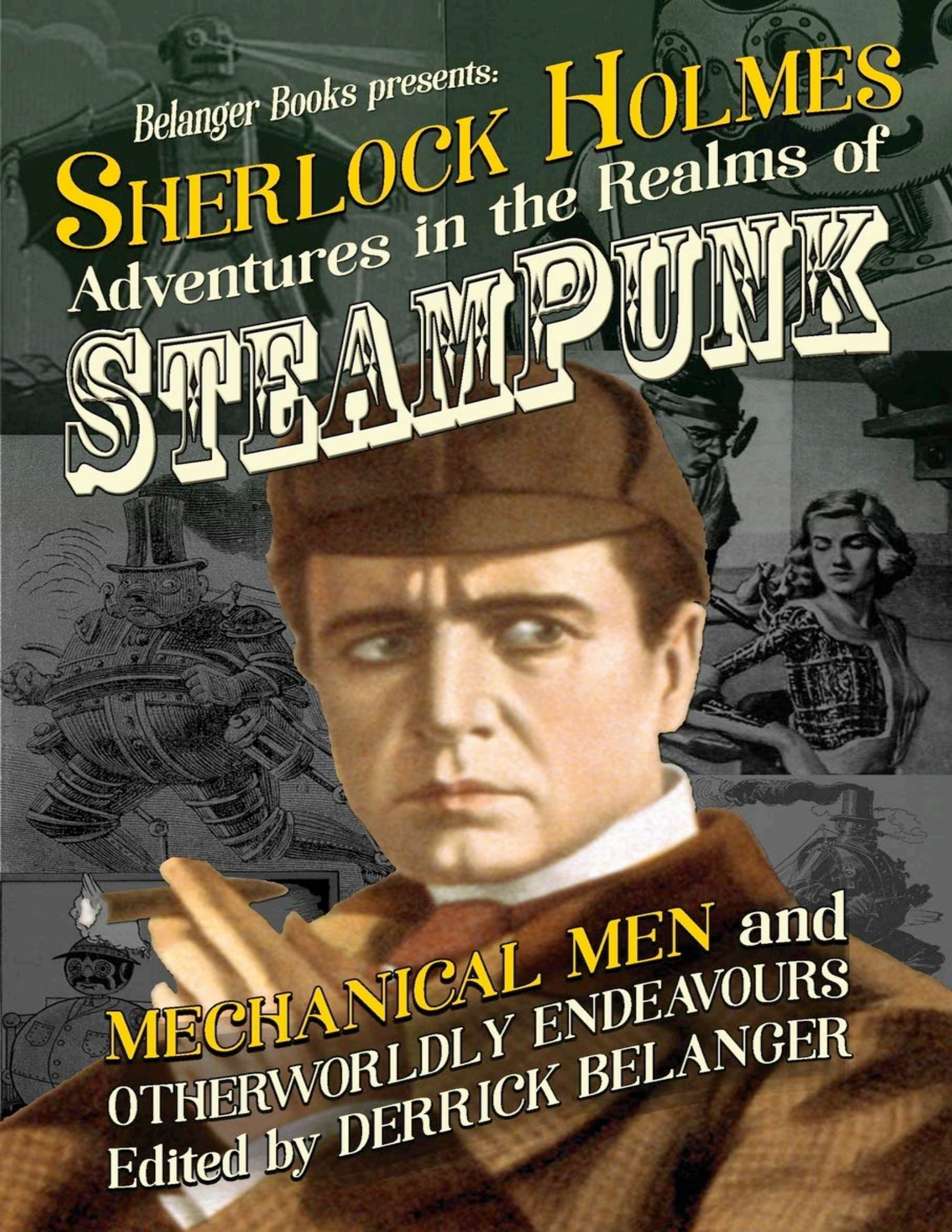


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OTHERWORLDLY ENDEAVOURS
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Steam Pulp Fantasy



A game of cinematic action



This custom-made post-apocalyptic beauty is a showstopper

Moscow-Based Garage Unveils Steampunk Inspired Custom-Made BMW R9T

Hopefully, a zombie apocalypse won't happen any time soon; but that doesn't mean you can't dream about the sweet-steampunk racer you'll be riding if it ever happens.

Moscow-based Zillers Garage has unveiled a steampunk, custom-made BMW R9T motorcycle in co-operation with John Reed Design. BMW R9T is a customizer's dream since it is one of the most popular "standard" motorcycles of our era. It is the ultimate retro-style roadster and considered by many as a blank canvas to customize.

In order to customize the bike to their liking, the collaborators took BMW's roadster and redesigned the outer body without changing the internal build. With its current look, it has become a racer that is fit for the set of Mad Max, and that's saying something.

The bike has a masterfully sculpted aluminum shell, custom spoked wheels, and light-up BMW badges.

The look was achieved by having a shell made entirely from fabricated aluminum parts that hide all the mechanical components.

The first step was to make a CAD drawing, and the sketch was done by John Reed Design. Afterwards, Smolyanov changed the suspension setup to lower ground clearance to change the bike's stance.

Then, Smolyanov modified the controls with the front brake and clutch levers to boost remote-controlled buttons. This helps adjust the air suspension.

It is just amazing that all the details are handmade, right down to the exhaust system.

The bike was fitted with Brembo brakes and custom multi-spoke wheels to have a cohesive look.

Moreover, they've included a USB socket in the storage space under the seat, which you can use to charge your phone.





Steampunk



WWW.STEAMPUN

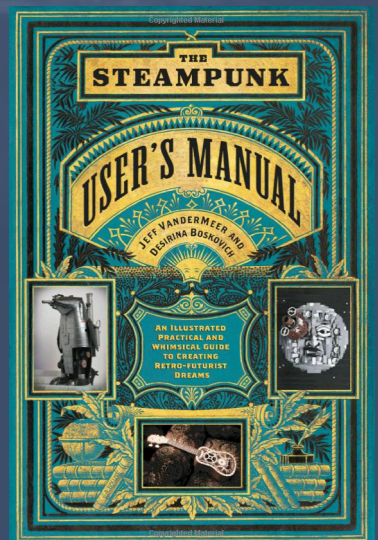
If you have enjoyed the previous pages and want to know more about the Steampunk World, you must spent a few hours on this web site and discover all there is to see about it...



Tendencies

INKTENDENCIES.COM

And finally, if you think you belong to this, you might want to read the Steampunk User's Manual before joining a culture which might be a tad different from your own lifestyle...



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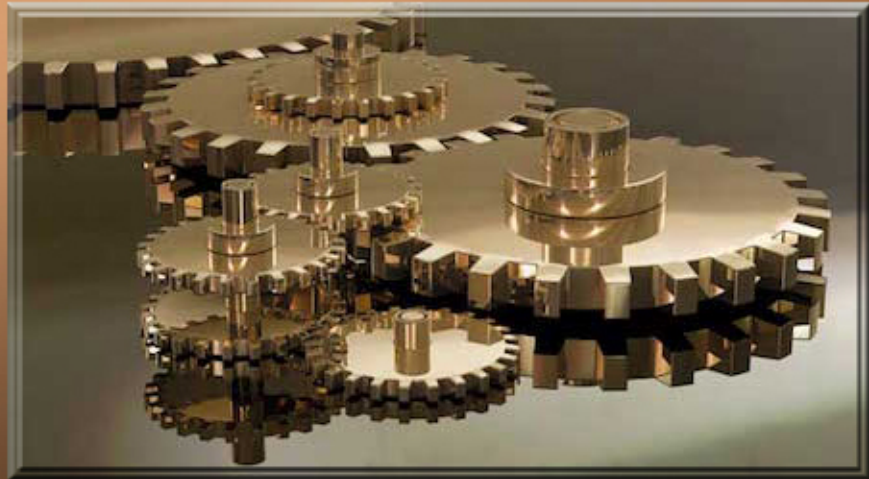
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