

# Kev's BEAR BONES



# THE LATEST CREATION FROM BBC BLENDS ALL THE USUAL HIGH-END GEAR WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF RAW APPEAL ...

WORDS & PICS DOC

It's long and low, black and mean; the coolest flat-black bike you've ever seen. Its designer and builder, Kevin Alsop of Big Bear Choppers, says, "This ain't no faggoty-ass, Easter egg bike." No sirree Bob. And in the grungy down-at-the-heel industrial suburbs of Los Angeles where I rode it and photographed it, it seemed to fit right in. Mega tough and ready to rumble.

This is also a bike you never need to clean; you just ride the sh\*t out of and put it away wet. The more grunge it collects, the tougher it looks. No cleaning? Yee-bloody-ha – I want one!

Take a look at the riding shot and note how low I'm positioned on this bike; you don't sit on it, you meld into it – which, I might add, immediately makes you feel 20 per cent tougher.



## GUTS &amp; BOLTS

## ENGINE

Type: ..... BBC/S&S 100  
 ..... SMOOTH V-twin  
 Finish: ..... Raw  
 Displacement: ..... 100ci  
 Bore/stroke: ..... 4" x 4" (square)  
 Power: ..... 95hp (at the crank)  
 Torque: ..... 112ftlb (at the crank)  
 Induction: ..... S&S Super E Carburettor  
 Air cleaner: ..... S&S Teardrop  
 Pipes: ..... Jardine (black)  
 Oil pump: ..... S&S (high volume)

## TRANSMISSION

Brand: ..... Baker  
 Finish: ..... Raw w/chrome covers  
 Drive: ..... Right side  
 Gears: ..... 6-speed overdrive  
 Warranty: ... Two years/32,000km  
 Primary drive: ..... BBC (enclosed  
 ..... wet chain)  
 Finish: ..... Raw  
 Final drive: ..... BBC Chain Brake  
 ..... Drive System

## ELECTRICAL

Wiring harness: ..... BBC/Wire Plus  
 Charging system: ..... BBC 40a  
 Ignition: ..... Dynatek 2000i  
 Coil: ..... 80,000v Mini  
 Starter: ... Black/Terry Components  
 Battery: ..... Deka AGM

## FRAME

Type: ..... BBC Bear Bones (Softail)  
 Tube: ... 0.160" wall DOM seamless  
 Swingarm: ..... BBC Venom  
 Neck rake: ..... 34°  
 Seat height: ..... 20"  
 Weight: ..... 700lb (327kg)

## WHEELS &amp; BRAKES

Wheels: ..... Big Bear Choppers  
 Type: ..... Forged aluminium  
 Finish: ..... Raw  
 F Rim: ..... 21" x 2.125"  
 R Rim: ..... 18" x 8.5"  
 F Tyre: ..... Avon Venom 90mm  
 R Tyre: ..... Avon Venom 250mm  
 F Brake: ..... PM 4-piston caliper  
 R Brake: ..... BBC/PM 4-piston

## SUSPENSION

Front: ..... BBC smooth-mount  
 ..... hidden axle  
 Finish: ..... Raw machined  
 Triple trees: ..... 6° rake  
 Trail length: ..... 3.75"  
 Tube length: ..... 6" over  
 Rear: ..... Progressive Suspension  
 Finish: ..... Chrome  
 Travel: ..... 3"

## CONTROLS

Bars: ..... Bear Bones Drag Bars  
 Controls: ..... Chrome OEM style  
 Dash: ..... BBC/Wire Plus  
 ..... raw round digital  
 Grips: ..... BBC chrome  
 ..... w/black rubber  
 Foot controls: ..... BBC raw  
 Headlight: ..... BBC raw  
 Signals/mirrors: ..... Chrome  
 Seat: ..... BBC leather/vinyl  
 Kickstand: ..... BBC mid-mount  
 Cables: ..... Black coated

## GUARDS &amp; TINWORK

Guards: ..... BBC  
 Tanks: ..... BBC Bear Bones  
 Gas cap: ..... BBC flush-mount  
 ..... pop-up



**"I FELT 10FT TALL AND BULLETPROOF AS I RUMBLED THROUGH THESE POST-APOCALYPTIC STREETS ..."**

And that's just for starters. Crank it over and the 100-cube SMOOTH motor, built exclusively for BBC by S&S, fires into life – and then blipping the throttle further ups your TQ (Toughness Quotient). Riding it through bad neighbourhoods caused corner gangs to scatter, while more than one switch-blade-wielding, prison-tattooed, mean-faced mutha slinked quietly into the shadows.

Yep, I felt 10ft tall and bulletproof as I rumbled through these post-apocalyptic streets with their barred and broken windows – where burning cars dotted the landscape and fires still burned from last week's riots. Do this on a Honda Fury and you'd have your throat slit in 30 seconds ... Oops, maybe I've got a bit carried away – there was only one car still burning. The near-torrential rain uncharacteristically bucketing down that day must have put the others out.

However, while it boasts tough-as-nails looks, this chop is also great to ride. BBC learnt how to build choppers that actually handle a long time ago. The perfectly-contoured seat is supportive, and it also stops you sliding back when you twist the wick. It also positions the rider 'inside' the chassis, boosting control and adding to the unique sensation of riding low to the ground.

Raw aluminium and flat black. What a recipe for toughness. For cool. For a biker who is way more into hard-and-fast riding, rather than cleaning and polishing. This truly is a bike that stirs the emotions. One that gets

the juices flowing. Yet, paradoxically, it's this bike's very essence of understatement that demands attention.

The idea for this model first came about after Kevin had built himself a very similar ride – a ride that attracted favourable comment wherever he went. The next stroke of fate was the much-publicised – sound of trumpets – Global Financial Crisis, which rocked America back on its figurative financial heels. But, you know, when times get tough, people have an even greater need to have fun – and what could be more fun (while dressed, anyway) than cruising around on a cool custom bike that turns heads, goes like stink and handles sweetly?

So it was, that late one night during a full moon, while ensconced in his mountain-top lair, the Big Bear himself had a thought along these lines: "Hey, lots of blokes liked my own flat-black bike, maybe the time is right to launch a model along the same lines – one that comes in at a more affordable price than our top-shelf line of customs; one for blokes who are doing it tough out there ...". And so the Bear Bones was born and both the doctors and the nursing staff declared it was thoroughly healthy and destined for a long life. And that's my diagnosis too (remember, I am a doctor ...).

It's very important to appreciate that all the top-shelf components used in BBC's top-of-the-line bikes are still used in this one. All of them. The same 100-cube SMOOTH motor, the same Rolls Royce of gearboxes (a Baker Drivetrain unit), the same fork, swingarm, tinware,

handlebars, Wire Plus wiring harness and speedo, the same Performance Machine rotors and calipers – all the good gear, just presented in a tough-as-old-boots raw aluminium finish, and in flat black paint. You want the world's best value for money in a cool-as-all-get-out chopper? Hey, your search is over!

And don't tell Kevin I said this, but if down the track you feel like getting a custom paint job, or dipping a few parts in the chrome bath, well, you can. However, I personally love this bike as is, and can confidently state that if I had one it would be the first bike I've ever owned that I would leave totally stock.

Aussie Big Bear Choppers importer Chris Hill at Wildcard Customs ([www.wildcardcustoms.com.au](http://www.wildcardcustoms.com.au)) has been stoked by the interest in this cool new ride and had already sold seven at the time of writing, sight unseen. I can guarantee the new owners they won't be disappointed – they'll have smiles on their dials like the entrance to Luna Park, as they cruise around on their black-as-night, cool-as-can-be choppers.

I'll leave the last words to Big Bear Choppers. "The Bear Bones is desired by enthusiasts who want to ride a Big Bear Chopper with a shorter wheelbase and less rake than the others in the fleet, for more responsive handling.

"It shares the same high-end components as our famous Venom ProStreet featuring the polished proprietary 100 SMOOTH low-vibration engine and a Baker 6-speed overdrive tranny. Chassis configuration includes



ABOVE: How low is that seat? Just 20in off the ground, to be precise – any lower and you'd be using your butt as a brake!

a drop seat just 20in off the ground, a manageable wheelbase with a conservative 34-degree neck rake, foot and hand controls reaching towards the rider for a comfortable position, a patented unique fuel tank design plus a patented oil tank design holding just under 5lt and a 250mm rear tyre with a right-side final drive. Bottom line, the Bear Bones handles very nimbly for you riders who love to carve the corners with style." If this has stoked your fire, call Chris at Wildcard (07 5443 5548) – and tell him Doc sent ya! **HD**

