

# KARATE CHOP



by David Chen/JT Customs

Pics by XsSpeed

Inspired by my friend Tom Keefer's "Sushi Chop" (Franklin Church Choppers) at Smoke Out 8, I decided I wanted to do an inline four chop. I searched for two months and about to give up, until a friend from Philadelphia found a 1983 Honda CB1100F in perfect working order. Picked the bike up at S&S Cycles owned by "Slo." Immediately we started stripping the old girl. From this point we needed a direction for the bike. I originally wanted to do an HD VL springer front end, but Jim Brunner talked me out of it for a ground up custom leaf spring. His friend had a '32 Ford race car that was trashed, so we had all the parts for the front end.

From the start I wanted something low with a gooseneck type frame, Frisco style high pegs and 16 inch wheels front and back. Went over to Jebby Shack in Ephrata and scored rims off a late

model HD, headlights and many more miscellaneous parts. The battery box, tank, and rear fender were all made of aluminum. Two pieces of aluminum were welded together to make a rib down the middle of the fender. The front two brake calipers were from a R6 (Yamaha) and the rear was from a GXSR. The rear calipers didn't fit the sprocket we were going to run it off of, so we had to cut the caliper in half and make a spacer to make it fit. The gas tank was topped off with an old radiator cap from a model B. We made I-beams to accommodate the leaf spring set up. Holes were drilled into the I-beam for "special effects." I think Jim must have gone through a few bits drilling those holes. The final and hardest part of the bike was the exhaust/sissy bar. We didn't want to use a sissy bar, so we went with the exhaust holding up the fender. A bridge was mounted on the rear fender to hold everything together. The rear section of exhaust and sissy bar/bridge are all one

piece; it just slips back and out to remove.

The build started in October of 2007. Fast forward to Tuesday before Smoke Out 9. Barely had enough time left before leaving on Thursday morning. The only thing left was the leather for the seat pan. My good friend Craig Ammons made a leather seat on Friday morning in the middle of Comfort Inn parking lot, amidst the scorching Mocksville, NC heat.

I want to thank all involved in this build for what seemed an endless endeavor: Jim Brunner, Michael Kane, Stu Craley, Craig Ammons, Tom Keefer, Jebby (Jebby Shack), Slo and my wife and kids for letting me stray on every Mondays and Tuesdays at the shop.



## TECH SHEET

Model: ..... "Karate Chop" 2008 JT Custom  
 Year and Make: ..... 1983 Honda CB1100F  
 Engine  
 Displacement: ..... 1100cc+? (rebuilt by APE)  
 Carbs: ..... Mikuni  
 Exhaust: ..... JT Custom  
 Frame  
 Custom Made: ..... JT Custom  
 Rake: ..... 37 degrees  
 Type: ..... rigid  
 Accessories  
 Bars: ..... HD drag, cut down  
 Fender: ..... JT Custom  
 Oil Bag: ..... none, built into engine  
 Seat: ..... JT Custom  
 Upholster: ..... Craig Ammons  
 Headlight: V-Twin, with custom mounts by JT Custom  
 Front End  
 Leag Spring: JT Custom, with custom I-Beams  
 Wheels: ..16" front and back rims, Dunlop tires  
 Brakes: ..... R6(front), GXSR(rear)  
 Pegs: ..... V-Twin, modified stock peg mounts  
 Hand Controls: ..... stock  
 Gas Tank: ..... JT Custom  
 Risers: ..... JT Custom  
 Tail Light: ..... FU model B  
 Paint: ..... Chris Mell, Reading Pa

