

HARLEY'S 2015 ROAD GLIDE: BETTER THAN EVER!

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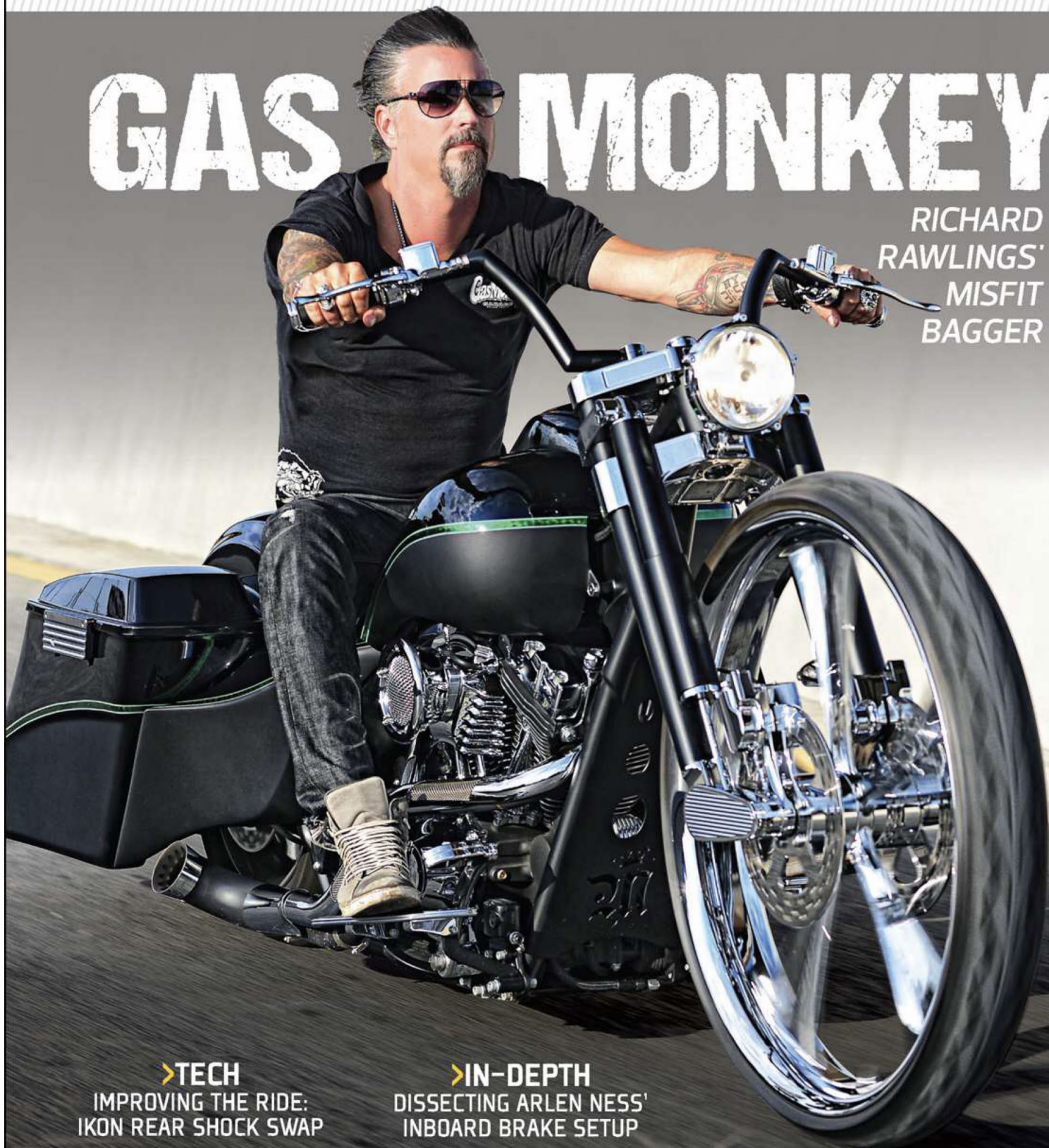
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CUSTOM TOURING MOTORCYCLE MAGAZINE



GAS MONKEY

RICHARD
RAWLINGS'
MISFIT
BAGGER



>TECH
IMPROVING THE RIDE:
IKON REAR SHOCK SWAP

>IN-DEPTH
DISSECTING ARLEN NESS'
INBOARD BRAKE SETUP



MR. GAS MONKEY

Richard Rawlings'
Misfit-Built
Bagger



WORDS: NICK SCHULTZ
PHOTOS: TYLER CLINTON

Even if you only have a cursory interest in cool vehicles—and if you're reading these words in this magazine, we'd say the odds are good—chances are you've heard of the Discovery TV show *Fast N' Loud*. In a way, the show is Discovery's spiritual successor to its ever-popular *American Chopper* series. *American Chopper's* ornery Teutul clan unofficially passed the Discovery top-dog mantle to *Fast N' Loud* stars Richard Rawlings and Aaron Kaufman at 2012's *American Chopper Live: The Revenge* build-off—but not before Paul Jr. won the competition one last time (sorry to bring that up, Richard). Although the minds behind Gas Monkey Garage are renowned for flipping hot rods on their show, there has always been an undercurrent of bikerdom present, whether derived from their televised face-off with Paul Sr. and Paul Jr. (and West Coast Customs' Jesse James) or in catching occasional glimpses of the mustachioed Texans traveling on two wheels on their show. If these weren't obvious enough hints, take it straight from the Big Monkey's mouth.

"I got my first motorcycle when I was eight years old," Richard recalls. "It was a Yamaha VT100. I've just always ridden. My dad always had a motorcycle, and I've always had a motorcycle. Anytime I can ride, I will. I'd much rather jump on a motorcycle than in a car."

Who better to provide a bike to the head monkey in charge than fellow Discovery feature builders and Texans (from the network's "The Lone Star State" episode of *BikerLive*) from Misfit Industries? Aside from television stardom, you might recognize Misfit's style and logo crown from various appearances in the pages of this magazine as well as partaking in our



2014 *Hot Bike* Power Tour and inaugural *Baggers* Invitational Bike Build-Off this past summer.

Chris Eder, owner of Misfit Industries, tapped into his shop's calling card of crafting hand-built tourers that are fit to withstand long hauls in creating this bike. Aside from the work laying the frame, a steel rear fender, and all the usual mischievous Misfit accoutrements, the real star of this show is the one-of-a-kind "air springer" front end that Chris and his cohorts concocted for this bike. With air built into the actual tubes, the front end also posed the greatest challenge in creating this big-wheeled behemoth, taking three of the four total build months to fashion alone.

"We did all of the frame, sheet metal, and bodywork in three weeks," Chris estimates. "The rest of our time was spent on assembly and that front end. Once we got the bike done and thought we had the front end right, it wasn't right. So we had to remake certain parts on the front end in order to get the air suspension working properly."

Complex suspension engineering

notwithstanding, even the glossy blacktop side split from the flat-black bottom by a singular cord in green—Richard's color—seamlessly mesh with his vintage hot-rod aesthetic.

"The styling of the bike is just classic," Chris explains. "Twenty years from now, it will be just as cool as it is today, regardless of trends."

"I just love this bike, period," Richard concurs. "People may question the extension and how big the wheel is, whether it will travel right, and whether the rear end will trail the way that it needs to, but the guys at Misfit really get it. They spend a long, long time in R&D. The bike rides great. I ride it just like I ride any of my other bikes. It's a phenomenal motorcycle. I'm very impressed with it."

Chris tells us that he and Richard have a lot of mutual acquaintances who warned that, with so many transportation options at his disposal, Richard might not be able to find much time to kick a leg over Misfit's creation. However, we're told you can't get him off of this one.

"He loves it," Chris says. "He rides it

everywhere. He keeps it right outside his office door. It's pretty cool to say that we built something a guy like Richard—who can have anything—really digs."

Don't mistake "who can have anything" with any sort of pretension. We found Richard to be as easy to talk to and humble as he comes off on his show.

"At the end of the day, as far as Gas Monkey Garage and *Fast N' Loud*, we're just very lucky and blessed to be where we're at," Richard thoughtfully says. "It's really a humbling experience. To me it's, 'Holy cow!' It's very humbling to me that people dig our stuff so much."

And of his friends at Misfit Industries, Richard sounds ready to share that Discovery top-dog mantle: "Misfit is doing a great job. I think they could be the next big motorcycle show. I really do believe that. I think they have great skills and great talent. They're forward-thinkers. I hope they can go on to do in the motorcycle world what we've been so fortunate to do in the hot-rod world."

You heard it here straight from the head monkey in charge. ■





SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL

BIKE OWNER	Richard Rawlings Fast N' Loud
SHOP NAME	Misfit Industries
SHOP PHONE	(877) 647-3489
SHOP WEBSITE	misfitmade.com
YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	2012/Harley-Davidson/ Street Glide
FABRICATION	Misfit Industries
ASSEMBLY	Misfit Industries
BUILD TIME	4 months

ENGINE

YEAR/MANUFACTURER	2012/H-D
TYPE/SIZE	Twin Cam 103 in.
BUILDER	H-D
CASES	H-D
CYLINDERS	H-D
HEADS	H-D
ROCKER BOXES	H-D
EFI/CARB	H-D
AIR CLEANER	Küryakyn
EXHAUST	Misfit Industries/Nasty Bastard

TRANSMISSION

YEAR/MANUFACTURER/TYPE	2012/H-D/6-speed
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CASE	H-D
CLUTCH	H-D
PRIMARY DRIVE	H-D

FRAME

YEAR/MANUFACTURER	2012/ H-D Misfit Short Neck Builders Kit
RAKE	44°
STRETCH	3 in.

SUSPENSION

MANUFACTURER FRONT	Misfit Industries Air Springer
LENGTH	Stock

TRIPLE TREES	Misfit Industries Air Springer
MANUFACTURER REAR	Misfit Industries Rear Air Ride

WHEELS, TIRES, AND BRAKES

MANUFACTURER FRONT	Misfit Industries/All Star
WHEEL HEIGHT/WIDTH	30 in.
TIRE HEIGHT/WIDTH	30 in.
CALIPER	Custom
ROTOR	Misfit Industries/All Star
MANUFACTURER REAR	Misfit Industries/All Star
WHEEL HEIGHT/WIDTH	16 in.
TIRE HEIGHT/WIDTH	16 in.

CALIPER	Stock
ROTOR	Stock

FINISH-PAINT

COLOR	Gloss black/flat black
PAINTER	Mike Coy/Darren Wenzle
GRAPHICS	Gold leaf with Candy Green

ACCESSORIES

FRONT FENDER	None
REAR FENDER	Misfit Industries handmade steel
FAIRING/WINDSCREEN	None
GAUGES	None
GAS TANK/CAP	Misfit Industries
DASH	Misfit Industries
OIL TANK	H-D
HANDLEBARS	Misfit Industries Brawler
HAND CONTROLS/GRIPS	Misfit Industries/ Monarch
FOOT CONTROLS/PEGS	Misfit Industries/ Monarch
HEADLIGHT	RSD
TAILLIGHT	PYB
TURN SIGNALS	PYB
LICENSE MOUNT	Custom
SEAT	Leather By HIX Designs
SADDLEBAGS	Misfit Industries