



# OUR PUNTA BANGA FAVORITE: MB'S EISENHAUER

- CHOP, RIDE AND PARTY -

GERMANY

Can you let your personal taste play a role when you try to document what is happening in the chopper world? There is just one answer; YES! So get used to it... These are my books and I can do what I want! I just have to hope you all like it a bit too, haha! We really do try to not have chopper shops appear twice in our books, but we have to make an exception with MB Cycles. Why? That's very simple; we are fans! This modest German man builds killer shit and is not afraid to do things totally differently. This Eisenhower is one of the best chops we have seen in years!



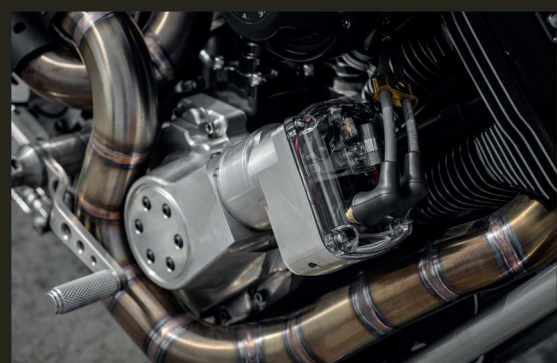
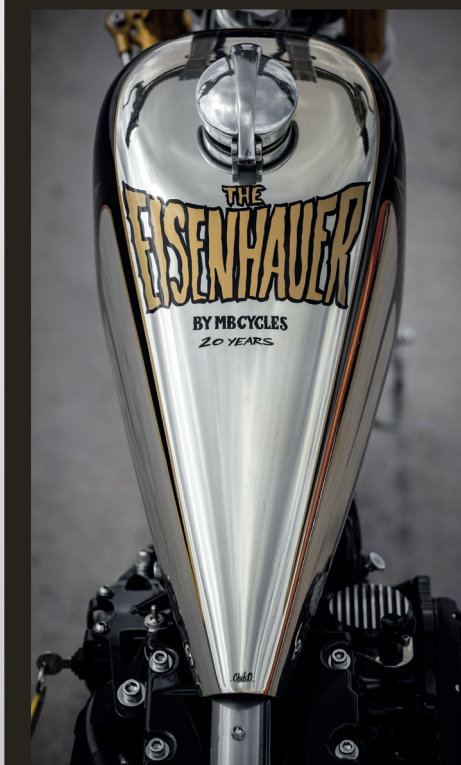
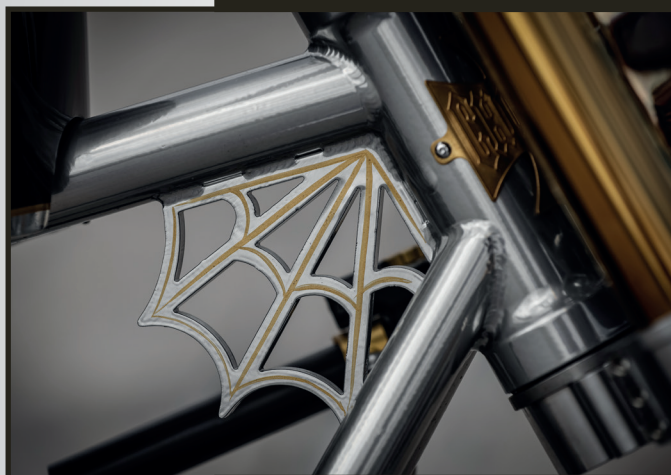
# THE EISENHAUER

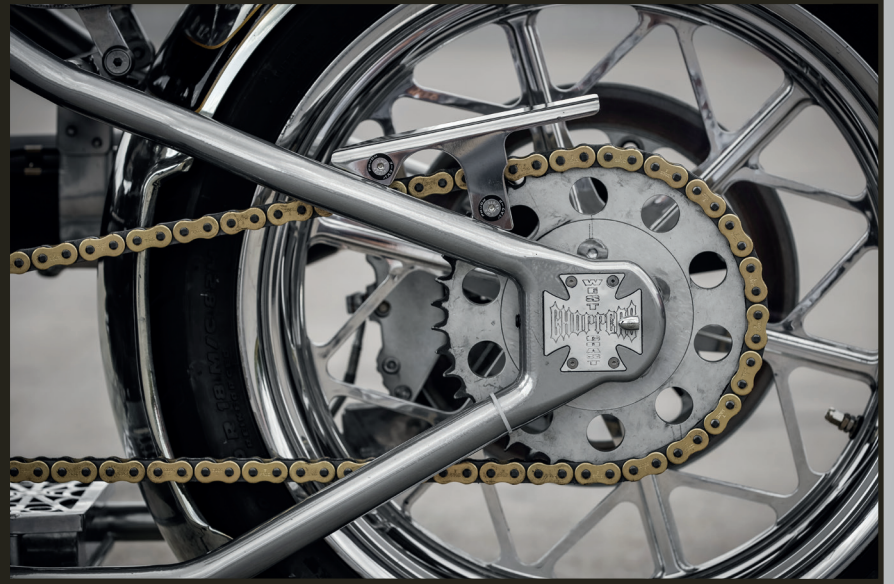


We are visiting Martin from MB Cycles in Heidelberg the day after a shooting for the German television, broadcasting Company SWR. They were working on a series called Art and Craftsmanship and MB is in it. 'I do not really like being in front of a camera', Martin admits, 'but I thought, why not? This way my mother can see me on television, haha.' His shop looks like a showroom, with all his coolest bikes in it, and now we understand why; we are just lucky to have arrived at the right moment. We are coming for the Speed chop Martin has built. A Speed chop is in short a **WEST COAST STYLE** chopper with **CLUB STYLE** stuff mixed in. That is exactly what this bike of MB is. Why is it called the Eisenhower? 'No real deep meaning behind it at all, it is because it sounds good and it looks good on the gastank.' We learn that the bike was built especially for the big Punta Bagna show. Not for a customer, but just for Martin himself. 'I build lots of bikes just for myself and later sell them. When I am done, I am often bored and want another one even more perfect. I have always done it like that.'

It costs a lot of money to run your business like that. 'I own several bikes, so I do not always immediately sell what I have built, but hey, I love to ride and drive American and that is the **ONLY THING LUXURIOUS** I allow in my life. I do not care about a Rolex or anything like that. About the Eisenhauer, I wanted to build a chopper around that West Coast hardtail frame and it had to look fast. All my bikes are a mix of "chopper" and **'FAST'**. I do not like classic choppers. My bikes need to look as clean as possible. I decided to go for gold-nitrate plated fork tubes because I think it gives the bike a performance look. I then decided to have the gold return for other parts in the built. I never plan my choppers on forehand. When building I go with the flow, do what comes up to me while working on it.' Lots of thought was spend in the front-end and the wheels. The latter have the shape of the **SNOW FLAKE WHEELS** that could be found on old BMW's. Martin had them custom made that way especially for this bike. He used PM calipers brakes in the front and made the oil lines for them go through the front-axle. That is what we meant when we talked about clean! The brakes and clutch handlebar controls are from Beringer. The risers are typical clubstyle and come from Vity's design Italy. That very special fairing comes from **TOM FORK JAPAN**. 'I have hidden all the things necessary to have this bike street legal. Stuff like the controls for the blinkers and a button to silence the exhaust, a neutral control light and much more. If you don't know it, you won't find where they are.' Suddenly whispering, Martin tells us with a smile; 'I even have a button to turn off the license plate lighting.'

Although MB does a lot of fabrication in his shop, for this particular chopper





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Words: Beer  
Photo's: **Riders Eye**

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we also see a lot of parts that are bought. Most of those were modified to make them fit better of course, but he has a lot of cool parts on this bike nonetheless. Only the best is good enough for MB Cycles. He is particularly proud of the original West Coast choppers seat pan, that he found on Ebay. We from CRP really don't get it, especially when we hear how much it costs. It looks so simple, why not make one yourself? But hey, to each his own. It does show pure passion for West Coast choppers and at least the custom deck is typical MB. Getting those mid controls for this bike is something we do understand. Artwork is what that is, as is everything out of the hands of the German company 'FAMOUS FABRICATOR'. It is another shop we have secretly been following for a while now. The Eisenhauer motor is special too. It is completely assembled. Things like that you cannot buy anywhere. It is not just a Twincam. It is a **TWINCAM BUILT ON EVO CASES**. 'And I wanted a magneto ignition', Martin tells us. 'Why? I know, it really makes no sense, I just think it looks damn cool, haha.' And we totally agree, understand what he is talking about and very much appreciate honesty like that. The pipes are BSL made but of Martins design. 'They use some kind of acid to get that golden glow.' Because of the rad magneto there is no need of a battery, so instead Martin has put a very modern electro box in the battery housing. 'That thing helped a whole lot keeping the wiring simple and hidden. I had to **DIAL IT IN WITH MY PHONE**', he tells us.

This MB Speed chop has all the elements of being a true speed chop, yet it can easily be recognized as a MB signature bike too. MB's bikes always look badass. He does things no one else does. That license plate holder for instance... I always like it

when something goes up in the rear of the bike. Straight up, not under an angle. This looks aggressive to me. We saw the bike for the first time at the Punta Bagna show, where I immediately decided it was the best of the entire show field. MB did not manage to get first price, but his craftsmanship was definitely recognized. Out of a large number of very skilled and talented European builders, MB Cycles managed to be chosen as second best professional builder with his beautiful Eisenhauer.

## SO... WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS BIKE?

- It looks Frisco yet modern. For us this is what choppers of today should look like.
- The name does sound fucking cool. As if it is a tank, or something, or a battleship, great lettering too.
- The fact that it looks totally modern and racy but still has that classic looking parts like the seat pan.
- The tasteful way gold and chrome are combined everywhere on the bike.
- The fact that most controls buttons and lights are hidden or made to look good.
- That assembled motor with its beautiful magneto.
- That hydraulic clutch and the way the oil lines are run. It is all so clean and good looking.
- The narrowness of the entire machine.
- That "fuck-what-you-think-of-it" license plate holder.
- The custom made Snowflake wheels of course, real good looking shit there.
- The way MB makes parts of different origin look as if they belong together on this bike.
- The fact that a West Coast frame is used, but the entire bike does not carry that typical West Coast look. Most of the time that is a negative thing, in MB's case it means the opposite!

