

MT RACING

How to out-fox the competition for under \$200



MT is getting deadly serious about its racing and its race bikes. As guest tester for the SilverFox, we decided to bring along one of its newest race team members, "Wailin' Mahlon Abrams. This guy rips!

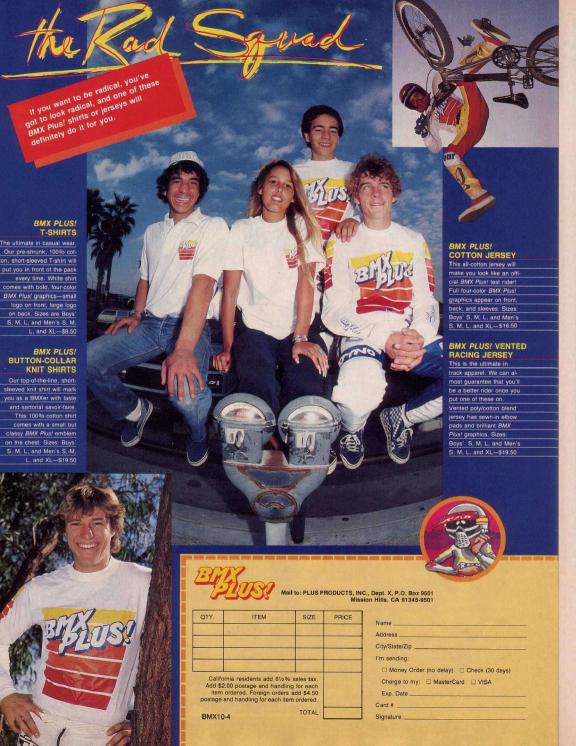
☐ Let's take a trip back in time. Back to January 1984. That was the month we tested for the first time a bike manufactured in Taiwan by a new company called Ming Tien Hang Corporation. The bike was their top of the line, called the AeroPro. In a nutshell, it featured aerodynamic styling, well-thoughtout componentry, and quality we simply never expected from Taiwan. For a rea-sonable \$350, the AeroPro was a heck of a bike for the price. Besides being pleasantly surprised, we began to no-tice a general change for the better in Taiwanese BMX equipment, And, in

fact, since that time, many top U.S. manufacturers have been equally impressed with the increased quality and have seen fit to add Taiwanese-built bikes to their line. RedLine, Hutch, Diamond Back, Kuwahara and Mongoose were just a few of the big names to nod their approval. Meanwhile, it was business as usual for the Ming Tien Hang Corporation, better known as MT Racing. They continued to refine their line of Taiwanese BMXers. But could they hold their edge against the onslaught of U.S.-sold, Taiwanese-built BMXers? Good question.

WELCOME TO THE SILVERFOX

MT Racing's answer to the "bestbuy," under-\$200, entry-level racer is called the SilverFox. It features an allchromoly frame and fork outfitted with select Taiwanese componentry. If you're looking for name-brand or buzz-word components, look elsewhere. With the exception of the SilverFox's SunTour freewheel, chances are you won't recognize any of the names on the spec sheet.
FOXY FRAME AND FORK

MT offers the SilverFox in either chrome or white frame and fork. We



SILVERFOX

"Wailin'" Mahlon was pleasantly surprised by the SilverFox's performance. For beginners and novices, the SilverFox delivers!

chose their "SW" model with the allwhite frame and fork complete with chrome-and-black componentry. Once it was assembled, we took some time to scrutinize the frame and fork fabrication. Here's what we found:

Weld quality, tube fit, overall fabrication and finish were quite good. Remember, this thing retails for right around \$200, so don't expect absolute perfection. For this price range we all felt that MT had done a very good job indeed. Nice work.

On the other hand, we just couldn't help but nit-pick. Like the SilverFox's forks. Nice work all the way down to the miter-cut bottoms. Then MT sloppily capped them off with some stamped-out, tacked-on plates.

Also, we found the rear drops to be too short to be of any use to racers. Any gear changing will require the chain to be lengthened or shortened accordingly. And that's a hassle. Plus, the rear stays weren't capped where they meet the drops. But other than that, the SilverFox chassis is a winner. Good work, MT.

ON-TRACK PERFORMANCE

Since we already pointed out that much of the componentry on the SilverFox isn't familiar, brand-name stuff, we'll save the parts rundown for the specs box and move on to our riding impression.

First thing you'll notice after swinging a leg over the SilverFox is that unlike many of today's under-\$200, entry-level bikes, the MT is quite roomy. The frame is a lower profile which drops the top tube about an inch lower than, let's say, the RedLine 500a. This coupled with a 71-degree seat-tube angle gives the feeling of a long and low bike. But after checking the specs and finding a modest 36½-inch wheelbase and average 11½-inch bottom-bracket height, you'll find that the SilverFox isn't really as long and low as it feels.

The ergometrics on the SilverFox seem to favor riders from 12 to 15 years of age. With its 175mm cranks, short offset stem and eight-inch-tall by 25-inch-wide bars, the SilverFox feels great. Good pull out of the gate. Well centered through the turns. Well balanced in the air.

The overall weight on the SilverFox is 25 pounds (complete with pads but minus plate and C.P.S.C. equipment),

Handling and steering best suit novicelevel racers. It's nimble and quick without being too skittish. In berms it's Fun City!



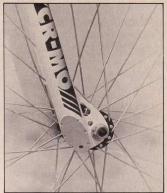
SILVERFOX



At first glance you'd swear that the SilverFox's pedals are Sun-Tour's XC series. Not so. While the design is similar, the cages are not replaceable. Good stuff,



Up front you'll find a Chang Star caliper. With a bit of dialing in and some accessory pads, they'll work. Tires are Cheng Shins: low bucks, high traction,



MT's frame-and-fork fabrication was spoton. The only beef we had was the stamped-out-looking caps on the fork legs. Other than that, the SilverFox chassis gets the thumbs-up.



I. Bike: MT Racing SilverFox, 20-inch complete bike.

2. Age range: 12 to 15 years old. 3. Country of origin: Taiwan.

4. Intended use: Street/trail, entry-level racer.

5. Wheelbase: 36" to 3634"

6. Bottom-bracket height: 111/4

7. Chain stay length: 151/4"

8. Steering head angle: 72.5°

9. Seat tube angle: 71°.

10. Frame: MT Racing, 4130 chromoly throughout. Features: 11/e" top tube, 11/4" down tube, 4" head tube, American bottom bracket, white finish.

11. Fork: MT Racing, 4130 chromoly throughout. Features: 11/e" diameter legs, leading-axle design, drilled for caliper, white finish,

12. Rims: Alloy, 20" x 1.75", 36-hole.

13. Spokes: 36/.080 cadmium plated.

14. Hubs: Sui-Yuan, alloy, low-flange, loose ball.

15. Tires: Cheng Shin skinwalls, 20" x 1.75" rear, 20" x 2.125" front, 35 psi.

16. Cranks: One-piece steel, heat treated, 175mm.

17. Pedals: Wellgo LU-393 alloy, cage design, chromoly shaft.

18. Chain: TYC 1/2" × 1/8".

19. Bottom bracket: Steel, retainered ball.

20. Front sprocket: Alloy, 44T.

21. Freewheel: SunTour 16T.

22. Brakes: Chang Star 900 calipers and levers, front and rear.

23. Headset: Steel, retainered ball.

24. Stem: Alloy, 4-bolt with chromoly shaft

25. Handlebars: MT high-tensile steel, 8" rise x 25" width.

27. Seating: Viscount Dyna plastic saddle, fluted chromoly seatpost, alloy post clamp

28. Miscellaneous: MT Racing pad set, C.P.S.C. safety equipment.

29. Overall weight: 25 lbs. with pads and without C.P.S.C. equipment.

30 Approximate retail price: \$199

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which is respectable for an entry-level mount. During riding, the weight won't slow you down a bit. However, when you start progressing out of the novice ranks and into the experts, you might want to think about a weight-loss plan to drop a few pounds.

SHOULD I BUY A SILVERFOX?

Now we come to the big question. In the midst of all the big brand bikes coming out of Taiwan these days, does the MT SilverFox stack up? Is it worth the bucks? Does the quality add up to the price tag? Well, the answer to these questions is, "yes." Yes, MT did its homework on the SilverFox. It's a good entry-level racer for the bucks. Good handling, good quality, good economy-minded BMXer.

So in the end, MT upholds the tradition of offering quality BMXers from Taiwan, and we all live happily ever after. If you're looking for an entry-level racer with class and style, not to mention a dirt-cheap price tag, your boat from Taiwan just came in.

FRESHOUR

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9. - PAYMENT

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MO RES ADD 5.625% Sales Tax \$

TOTAL ORDER\$___

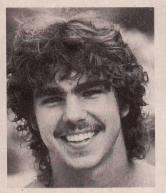
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1 T.K. LITE F	rame 3 lb. 10 oz	Fork 1 lb. 12 oz.	E DESIRED SIZES	\$189.00
	8-10 yrs.	10-12 yrs.	12-14 yrs.	14-16 yrs.
L=Length of top tube	161/2"	17"	171/2"	18''
R = Rise of handlebar	6-61/2"	61/2-7''	71/2-8"	8-81/2''
2 🗆 T.K. PRO F	rame 3 lb. 14 oz.	- Fork 1 lb. 12 oz		\$196.00
	SUGGESTED CO	MBINATIONS - CIRCLE	E DESIRED SIZES	
	12-14 yrs.	14-16 yrs.	16-18 yrs.	Over 6' Tall
L=Length of top tube	171/2"	18''	181/2''	19"
R = Rise of handlebar	71/2-8'*	8-81/2''	81/2-9"	9-91/2-10"
	RED SIZES 26'' 27'' 28'' 61/2'' 7'' 71/2'' 8''	8½" 9" 9½" 10"		
4 T.K.CHRO CHECK ONE -	MOLY SEAT PO □ 7/8" X 14"			\$6.00
5 FRAME I.I	D. NUMBER OF	R LETTERS - stam	ped in drop out I	
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