

Duded up in black, the Bassett "Swooper" BMX looks like it'll swoop out of the sky at any second. This is their best bike.



BASSETT SWOOPER BMX

• Every now and then something interesting turns up and in this case it happens to come from Bassett Racing. They call their topline BMXer "the Swooper", no doubt because of the "swooped" top tube in the frame. If anything else, it is this feature that will cause heads to turn, since it looks like the bike suffers from a case of terminally broken tubes.

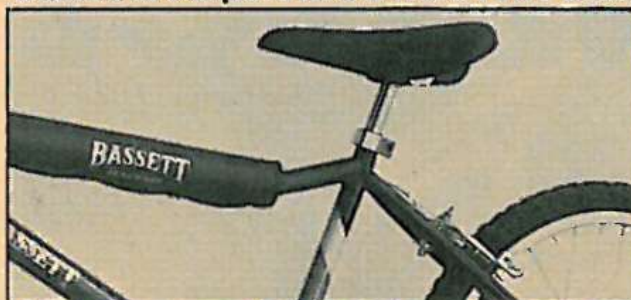
This tube, as explained in an information sheet supplied by Bassett, is a "stress relief" tube. It therefore appears that the thinking is that if the top tube is going to flex, why not try to reduce it by bending it to begin with. Time on the track didn't seem to make the bike any more or less flexy than normal, at least not to us. We did find it to be one of the better bikes around and the bent top tube does provide better clearance than usual.

To make the bent tube work without using thicker tubing or extra gusseting, a chrome moly frame is used, as are the forks. Alloy bars help navigate the bike around and are secured by an SR alloy stem. The crank is a Sun Tour VX alloy

It may look strange, but winning is what counts!



In an effort to make it a winner, the Swooper comes with neat stuff like a Sun Tour alloy crank, molded seat, Shimano calipers and a Haro Pro Plate.



Busted? No, this is the way the bike's made. The top tube is "pre-bent" to keep flex in the rest of the frame to a minimum.

three-piece unit with KKT Lightning pedals. Tried and true Araya 7Cs are used front and rear with wide flange hubs. Lots of other interesting goodies abound on this bike, too, but there are too many to list.

Bassett Racing's "Swooper" is definitely a different item on the BMX list. The bent top tube may not give you all the confidence you need, but more importantly, the rest of the bike works just fine by us. •

BASSETT SWOOPER Specifications

NAME AND MODEL	Bassett "Swooper"
RETAIL COST	N/A
WEIGHT	Approx 25 lbs
FRAME	.4130 chrome moly
FORKS	.4130 chrome moly
HANDLEBARS	Alloy with SR stem
GRIPS	OKG barrel-type
SADDLE	One-piece molded plastic
WHEELS	Araya 7C with alloy large-flange free hubs
CRANK	Sun Tour VX three-piece alloy
GEARING	45/19
BRAKES	Shimano Dia-Compe caliper
CHAIN	N/A
TIRES	N/A
PEDALS	KKT Lightning
DISTRIBUTOR	Bassett Racing 1911 Betmor Ln. Anaheim, California 92805