

Although he's famous for his ramp activities, Mike is an excellent groundster, as well. The Strike Zone isn't just for ramps, either.

Rich Sigur exhibiting his version of Ceppie Maes' famous "Dance of Doom." Moves like this brought the Ku Fong seat to an untimely death. ▼



□ If you happen to strike it rich (\$350), and the thought of having a full-on, ready-to-rage freestyle bike strikes your fancy, maybe you should strike out on your own to the nearest Diamond Back dealer and strike up a conversation with him about the latest offering from the snake stylers at Diamond Back—the Mike Dominguez Strike Zone. Once there, your friendly dealer might tell you this is Diamond Back's second major attempt at a freestyle bike. The first one was the Hot Streak, which we tested in our November 1985 issue. It turned out to be kind of a foul ball. They have improved and updated the Hot Streak since then, but it is still a low-priced entry-level stycler.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING . . .

**THE STRIKE ZONE**

Mike Dominguez' Diamond Back Stycler

Your dealer would probably tell you that the Strike Zone is Diamond Back's top-of-the-line style mobile and that Mike D. had major input in its design, along with the high-tech corporate engineers at D.B. The dealer might strike a note about the striking resemblance to Mike's ultra-killer, low-rider mini truck. He might note the excellent componentry and mega-quick handling (75-degree head angle). He might be able to tell you a lot of things, but it's doubtful he'll have Mike Dominguez himself, *BMX Plus!* testers Rich Sigur and Randy Tischmann and Kuwahara's team quarterpipe to show you how well, or badly, the newest machine from the snake lovers performs. So keep

# SANTA GETS SO CAN YOU! RAD- GET A **BMX PLUS!** CHRISTMAS DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTION— ONLY \$10.98!

## LEARN THE SECRET TO STYLE

Who would believe it? St. Nick *shreds*, cuts *loose*, gets *stylish*? It's true! There's nothing Claus likes better than rippin' a few laps with the elf dudes or practicing some nasty maneuvers with the Red-Nosed One.

Nothing except reading his monthly edition of *BMX PLUS!*, that is!

After all, if it weren't for all the fax and fotos in the *PLUS!*, the Big S couldn't even balance on training wheels. Santa relies on regularly scheduled doses of hard-core BMX info to ensure his status as #1 Racer/Freestyler at the Pole. (The only Racer/Freestyler at the Pole, for that matter, but who's counting...?)

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And now, for a limited time only, you, too, can learn the secret to ultimate radness with a full year's subscription to the Number One BMX magazine, *BMX PLUS!* Or you can maximize your education and go for the two-year super deal and get 24 issues for only 21 bucks—that's \$4 off the regular rate, over \$13 less than what you'd fork over at the newsstand.

Just think. If Santa can style, how hard can it be for you?! Subscribe to *BMX PLUS!* Magazine now.

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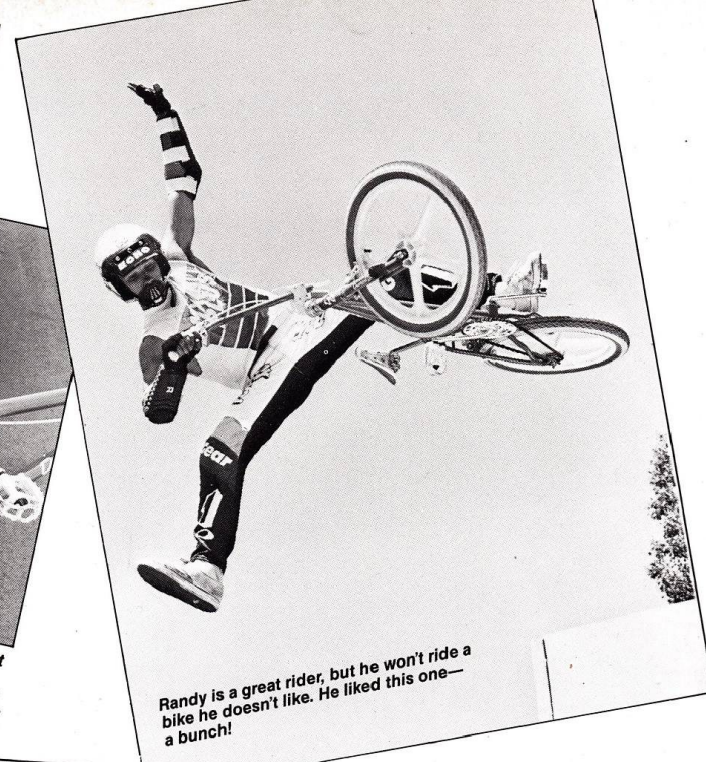


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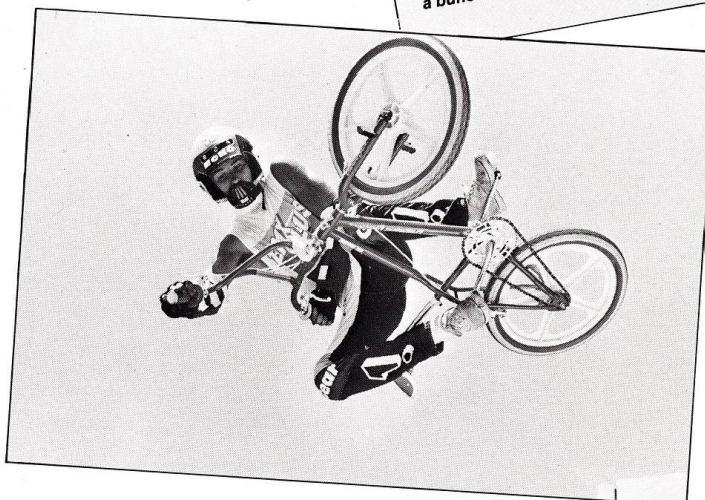
# STRIKE ZONE



The Fu Kong seat is kind of funky, but it's comfy. Check the cool top tube platform, genuine Tuff Wheels, stylish Tioga spider and the ultra-killer SunTour XC Power Cam brake setup. Great stuff!



Randy is a great rider, but he won't ride a bike he doesn't like. He liked this one—a bunch!



◀ *BMX PLUS!* Test Forcer Randy Tischmann was on hand to help give the Diamond Back the once over, and he did—more than once! It says a lot for a bike if it survives the "Tisch Monster." The D.B. did!

within striking distance, and let's find out if this bike is a hit, or—dare we say it—a strike.

### GOOD PARTS

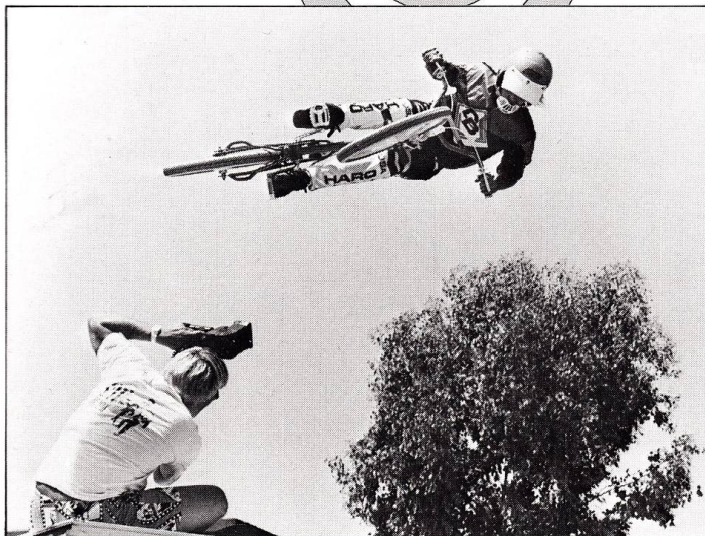
The Strike Zone is chock-full of cool components: real-McCoy Skyway five-spoker wheels, ACS Rotor, Dia-Compe Nippon front brakes and very interesting rear brakes—SunTour's XC Power Cam models. These gems are similar to the mountain bike brakes of the same name and to cantilever brakes (also popular on mountain bikes), and also to the new

brakes being used by Hutch. To sum up their performance in a few words, they are a pain to adjust, but once you get them dialed, they work totally killer. The stop-on-a-dime attitude of these pups is incredible! Another cool component on this bike is the new Diamond Back stem. It has an extra-long forward reach and is set up to be used with a Rotor... cool, for certain. The top tube platform is like that found on Dyno freestylers and works cool. The rear platforms are comparable

to Red Line's RL-20 II, but they have grippy notches in them. Fork pegs are usefully inouented (unlike the old Hot Streak's) near the front axle and are of good size and shape with an unusual "half-hexagon" design. Dig the grip tape on them—a nice touch.

The rest of the components on the Strike Zone are just what you would expect from a bike in this price range:

# THE STRIKE ZONE



Above all else, Dominguez designed the Strike Zone for aerals. Guess what? It works!

Cream of the crop! Chromoly, Haro-style bars; chromoly seatpost; 2.125 Cheng Shin tires (like Mike uses) and the list goes on and on (check the specs). About the only lame parts on the bike are the Fake-O-Matic Mushroom grips. The real ones are much better.

## RIDIN' IT

As you probably know (unless you live in a cave), Mike Dominguez is a master of the airways. In fact, he is an aerial machine! But what you might not know is that Mike is also an accomplished ground rider. With that in mind, the Strike Zone was designed to perform well in either situation. Its 75-degree head angle makes it turn quickly, and the Rotor, fork pegs, top tube platform and rear platforms make it a flatland wizard. The test guys gave it the twice over, and it came out smilin'. The only

frowns were caused by the seat, which exploded off its rails during an upside-down trick (not surprising, since seats are made to be sat upon), and some minor stem-in-the-forks slippage. Nothing major, however, since the guys thought the bike was among the best they'd ridden. In the air, Mike, Rich and Randy proved without words that this bike is no slug! They were jammin': Six-foot-plus airs, limbless variations, the dreaded cancan, and more. After talking to the guys, we found out what we already knew: The Strike Zone is a stable flyer!

## THIS IS GOOD

The Diamond Back Mike Dominguez Strike Zone (whew!) is a good bike. We liked it, the test force liked it, and Mike Dominguez liked it. At \$350 it is a bargain. It has all the latest coolness as far as components, is trick looking, and rides great. The problems we encountered with this bike are minor, and they are common among many other bikes we've tested in the past. Up to bat for the second time around, Diamond Back has hit a home run... no strike-outs here. ☐

### SPECIFICATIONS: DIAMOND BACK MIKE DOMINGUEZ STRIKE ZONE

#### I. FRAME AND FORK

Type: Freestyle, 20-inch; age range 12 and over.  
Frame design: Single top and down tubes; 1-1/4" O.D.  
Frame construction: Chromoly.  
Fork construction and design: Chromoly, 1" O.D. round tubing, welded-on "half-heaven" platforms slightly above axle level.  
Wheelbase: 35-3/4" to 37".  
Bottom bracket height: 11-1/2".  
Chain stay length: 15" (center of bottom bracket to center of dropout).  
Steering head angle: 75°.  
Seat tube angle: 75°.

#### II. WHEELS

Rims: Skyway Tuff Wheels, five-spoke variety, loose-ball bearings.

Tires: Cheng Shin, 20x2.125 front and rear.

Freewheel: Sunfour, 16T.

#### III. DRIVE TRAIN

Pedals: Victor VP-707, alloy with chromoly shaft.  
Crank: Sugino, one-piece, chromoly, 180mm.  
Front sprockets: Alloy, 44T.  
Spider: Tioga, alloy.  
Bottom bracket: Tioga, quick-adjust, steel, retained ball.

Chain: K, black and silver, 1/2" x 1/8".

#### IV. STEERING

Grips: Fuan Mushroom-II imitations.  
Handlebars: Diamond Back, chromoly/Haro-type, 28" wide by 9" high.  
Stem: Diamond Back, alloy clamp, chromoly shaft, hollow main bolt, drilled and tapped for Rotor mounting.  
Headset: Tioga Bear Trap, steel, retained ball, Rotor guide cup.

#### V. SEATING

Seat: Plastic, with padding riveted on.

Seatpost: Chromoly, laid-back.

Seatpost clamp: Diamond Back, alloy.

#### VI. BRAKES

Front brakes: Dia-Compe Nippon calliper, quick-adjust, quick-release.  
Rear brakes: Sunfour XC Power Cam.  
Levers: Dia-Compe Tech-6, locking mode.

#### VII. ACCESSORIES

Freestyle platforms: Welded on fork pegs, rear platforms integral with chain stays, ACS Rotor.

Miscellaneous: C.P.S.C. equipment.

#### VIII. WEIGHT

26-3/4 lbs.

#### IX. PRICE

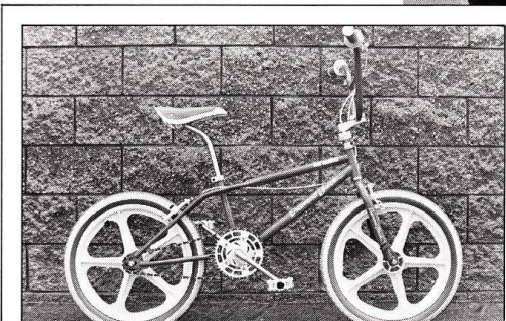
\$325.

#### X. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Taiwan.

#### XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Diamond Back Western States Imports 1837 DeHavilland Dr. Newbury Park, CA 91320



# REDLINE WINS

## GREG HILL

1986 NBL Number One Pro  
1986 NBL Number One Cruiser Pro  
1986 Cruiser World Champion  
1983/1984/1985 BMX Action NORA Cup

## R.L. OSBORN

1st Pro Overall, 1985 NFA Grandnationals  
1st Pro Overall, 1985 AFA Masters Finals  
1st Pro Ground, 1986 AFA Masters, Round One  
1st Pro Ground, 1986 AFA Masters, Round Three

