

A couple of years ago, everybody in freestyle was trying to see who could build the cheapest—but still decent bike. The \$200 price barrier was under constant assault as one manufacturer after another came back from Taiwan with the bike he thought would revolu-

tionize the bicycle industry.

To tell the truth, most of the bikes were surprisingly good. The average kid on the street could get a lot of bike for his money in those days. The manufacturers, however, soon found out the problem with trying to sell those bikes in such a competitive market. In order to make their bikes competitive, they had to have decent components, good materials, good construction and a profit margin so low that it was almost necessary to sell the bikes at a loss

Another thing the manufacturers realized was that once a kid is interested in freestyle and has a freestyle bike, the next thing he wants is a better bike. And most kids have the brains to realize that the best bikes cost more than the cheapest bikes.

LOOK TO THE PROS

When BMX racing first became popular,

and what wasn't, was to go to the track. It didn't take long for racers to figure out that the guys who were winning races had to have good bikes under them or they wouldn't win. It also followed that people would want to buy the same kinds of bikes and parts that the top riders used so they could enjoy the same equipment advantage. Sponsorships soon followed. Often a company would make a bike and then tell their riders to use it. The problem with that was that if a rider didn't like the bike, he'd either quit the team or get a bike he did like and change the stickers on it. Some of you may recall the year 1983 in BMX, the year the Patterson brothers dominated the Pro ranks. One thing a lot of people didn't know was that many of the other pros were so impressed with the design of the Patterson bikes, they got them for themselves and put different stickers on them so their sponsors

the best way to find out what was good

wouldn't notice. There are some top rac-

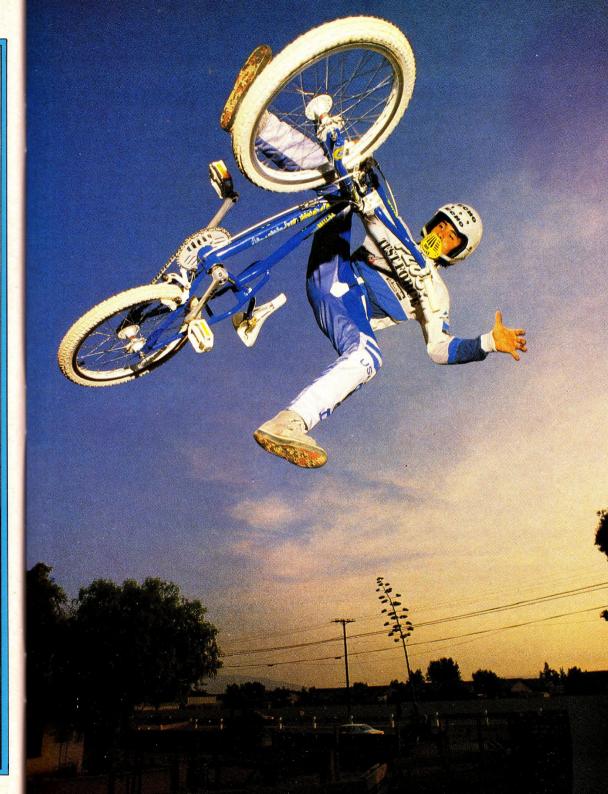
ers even today (including one top pro who

Gabe took about five or ten minutes to get used to the bike before going for varia-tions such as this downside cancan. Who knows what he would have tried if he'd had it for a couple of weeks?

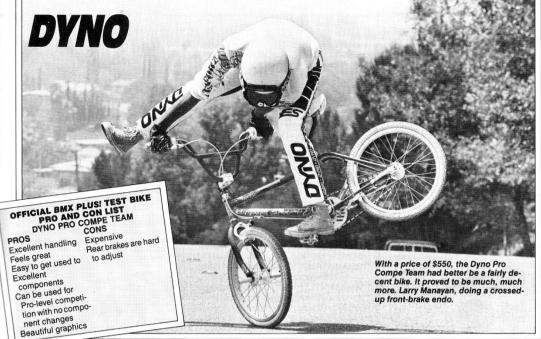
Do you ever wonder how guys learn tricks such as one-handed no-footers? Having a yard full of ramps probably helps. Gabriel Marroquin, stylin' in the twilight zone. ▶

and Gary Turner, the partners who run GT, know that riders will do anything to ride a top-quality bike. They were the guys who built a lot of the Patterson bikes for the Pattersons in those days, and they saw what lengths guys would go to in order to be able to ride a bike they liked. People were doing the same kinds of things so they could ride GTs, and Rich and Gary knew that was some of the best publicity they could get.

They also knew a lot about building bicycles. Somewhere along the line they realized that if kids who were serious would kill us if we said who he was) who are still riding those treasured frames.
The people at GT are smart. Rich Long about their racing or freestyle would do almost anything to have a bike as good as the ones the top pros rode, then it







made sense to sell them just that. Thus was born the "Team" model concept.

Richard Long told us about their new marketing idea last year: GT, Robinson and Dyno (the latter two are smaller companies GT took over some time ago and now runs as subsidiaries) were all going to offer top-of-the-line bikes whose parts would be chosen according to what their riders wanted to ride. As Richard put it, "If the guys decide they want to use a particular part on their own bikes, even if we don't make it, we'll put it on the Team model."

### GOOD PARTS DON'T COME CHEAP

For somebody who is really serious about his riding, the fact that a part is expensive usually has little to do with his desire to have that part on his bike. In fact, it sometimes seems that the more

#### SPECIFICATIONS: DYNO PRO COMPETEAM







Innovative frame designs are hard to find. Dyno has one of the best with this cool. top-tube/seat-tube/platform juncture.

expensive a part is, the more some riders are likely to want it. If that's the way you are, then this bike will definitely be a drooler for you. The list price of the Dyno Pro Compe Team model is \$550. If you consider that a lot of money, don't even think about buying the bike component by component and putting it together yourself. We had McGoo figure out that price for us using suggested retail prices on the frame and fork, GT Power Series cranks, Dyno Spin Tech stem, handlebars, rims, hubs, nuts and bolts. spokes, grips and everything else that goes into building a Dyno Pro Compe Team model. When he totaled up the prices of all the parts, it came to \$740! This is not a cheap bike.

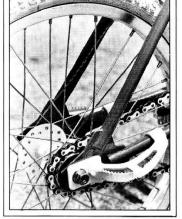
#### **TEST SESSIONS**

We decided to pick up our test bike from the Dyno/GT offices and build it up ourselves. Associate editor Gary Walton has put together a lot of bikes in his years of racing and working in a bike shop in his native Minnesota, so he volunteered to turn the wrenches.

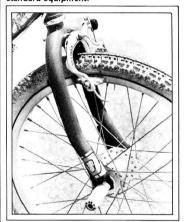
The bike went together like a charm. The construction and finish quality on everything was top-notch. The only component that was hard to put together was the rear brake system. It was the first time Gary had ever tried to put together one of the new Dia-Compe 990 centerpull brakes, and it wasn't easy. The front brake was the more conventional Dia-Compe Nippon model, and that one was a cinch by comparison. Our advice is to have your local bike shop mechanic set up your bike for you and show you how the rear brake adjustments are made. McGoo says that once you know how to adjust 990s, you'll find they're great brakes, but until then you could have a hard time of it.

Once we had the bike put together, we gave it the ol' once-over. Sure enough, it was absolutely beautiful. The distinctive Dyno frame design looked great. The cranks and components looked beautiful. The color and graphics were outstanding. The handlebars were as cool as they come. Everything looked the way it should on a top-of-the-line bike.

Riding came next, and it more than



It's a shame to show the close-ups in black-and-white, because the bike's color scheme is killer. Note the beefy race-lacetype hubs and rear frame standers-all standard equipment.



With all the weird bends in the frame and forks, the Dyno looks as though it could be a gimmicky bike. It isn't. It's one of the best freestyle bikes we've ever tested.

ground, the bike is a dream. The geometry is great. "The head-tube angle is perfect," was one comment. The steering is quick and predictable. The bike has every conceivable accessory you could want, including a rear cable detangler (a built-in feature of the Dyno Spin Tech stem), bolt-on fork pegs, rear frame standers and a pair of GT alloy Tube Ride axle pegs-and they all worked great.

Once we got the brakes adjusted, they worked fine. The new Dia-Compe Aerial brake levers are good; the cranks are superb, the grips feel great, and the seat is excellent. The whole bike is supereasy to adjust to.

It was just as easy to get used to it on the ramps at Gabriel Marroquin's house as it was on the ground. With Rich Sigur on tour and Steve Broderson nursing another injury, we drafted Gabriel as a test rider for this month and had him give confirmed our initial impressions. On the us his input on the bike. Aerial radness

## DYNAMIC BMX

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## DYNO



Funky chicken footwork in Mission Hills, California. Larry said the Dyno was the best test blike he's ever ridden. We'd put it right up there with the General R.L. Osborn Pro, the Haro Master, the GT Pro Performer Team and the Red Line R.L. 20 II. Blikes don't get any better.

proved as easy to achieve as flatland mastery. "It's easy to get used to, easy to ride," Gabe told us after his first few minutes on the bike. The photos should prove that. Gabriel was really impressed. It handled great.

Other than the fact that the rear brakes were hard to properly adjust, there weren't many other negative criticisms about the bike. Virtually every part of the bike our guys either loved or liked a lot. We've never heard a pair of tires get as much praise as the GT tires on this bike received. Tester Larry Manayan spent three days riding the bike and told us afterwards, "I'd die for these tires." Gabriel said simply, "These are the best tires ever made."

The only criticism Gabriel could offer us was that the pedals could use more studs for the times when only part of his feet are on the pedals, during lookbacks and other contorted aerials. Otherwise, he loved the bike.

Larry couldn't find much fault with it, either. He thought the bars could be a tad lower, however, and he pointed out that the front brakes would barely miss the bottom detangler cables, but miss they did. He also noted that it was hard to adjust the rear brakes, but once he got them dialed in, they worked fine. Larry's been helping us with our bike tests for almost a year now, usually giving us behind-the-scenes input on the freestyle bikes tested in both BMX Plus! and American Freestyler, Larry put it simply when he told us after three days of heavy riding, "This is the best test bike I have ever ridden."

Bikes don't get much better than this.

# CHOOSE ONE.



















(We knew it wouldn't be easy.)



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