



THE HANTER FREESTYLE*

*AND SHINGLEHEAD

WORDS BY LEW

PICS BY WINDY

IMPORT SECTION

Howdy, spuds. We've got a couple new guys we want you to meet. The first dude is Jeff "Shinglehead" Venekamp. He's our guest tester this month, freshly transplanted from his home town of (get this) Wheatfield, Indiana. Yes, you read that correctly, Wheatfield. Jeff came out to California for a short break from the hectic lifestyle of a Wheatfield local.

If you think that Shing is just your average shmuck-type guy, you're wrong. He's your average freestylin' shmuck-type guy who's been riding for about three years. We chose him to do the test this month because we wanted some new blood in the mag. We also chose him because he happens to be a HOT freestyler.

And in case you were wondering why he's called Shinglehead, it's 'cause about a year ago he decided to try a new, oh, shall we say unique hairstyle. With the help of a razor and some hair bleach, he was soon dubbed Shinglehead by his friends. To his mom's horror, the name just sorta stuck, and he's been known as Shingle ever since. Other assorted

names he goes by are Sliverhead, Splinterhead, Shovelhead . . . the list goes on.

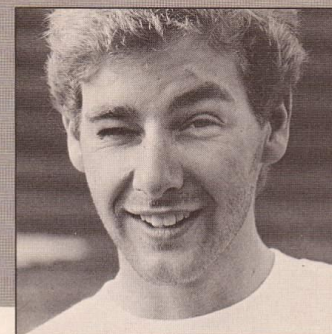
The other new guy we'd like you to meet isn't exactly a person . . . it's a bike. A Hanter Freestyle, to be exact. To be even more exact, it's pronounced Hunter, not Hanter. Your guess is as good as mine.

The Hanter is the scooter Shinglehead tested for us this month. And we do mean tested.

For a mid-priced (\$269.00) scooter, this thing did GREAT. Here're a few of the reasons why the Hanter managed to survive the wrath of Shinglehead: For starters, the frame, fork, bars, cranks, seat post, and stem bolt are chrome-moly. This is a major bonus. Mild steel just wouldn't have cut the mustard.

Secondly, it comes with ACS Z-Mags. You choose whether you want a coaster brake or freewheel. Ours came with coaster brake. Either way, you're getting quality wheels on the bike. Don't worry about breakage or bends—these things are as tough as they come. The Cheng Shin tires aren't too shabby either; they felt pretty smooth and gripped good.

Thirdly, the "feel" of the bike was pretty good. The bars were surprisingly cool . . . wide, fairly low, and with a good bend to 'em. The front of the bike was nice and roomy. Plus it came with Dia-Compe brakes. 901's



Here's some of the other stuff Shingle had to say about the Hanter:

"It was kinda tall, but for large guys like me, it's just fine." . . . "Those grips toot." . . . "The head tube angle looks laid back, but it doesn't feel laid back." . . . "It was all right overall. Aside from the grips, the only thing I didn't like were the back platforms. They felt cool when you bounced on 'em, but they weren't so sweet when they bit my ankle." . . . "The seat was pretty good. I wouldn't call it a joy to sit on, but it didn't gouge my legs either." . . . "It's an excellent bike for the guy who's first starting out, up to about expert level competition." . . . "It's cool that it comes stock with a hollow bolt stem." . . . "The standing platform on the top tube works okay—decent to useable." . . . "It's definitely rideable, even box-stock-out-of-the-crate."

in the rear, 880's in the front. You guys already know how good those work, right? Right.

As far as the bogus stuff goes, there's not much. In fact, most of the stuff is personal preference. Like the toadstool-type grips. Yuk. Shinglehead popped on some A'mes and was MUCH happier. The seat post was a hair too long for us, so we trimmed off about an inch. No biggie. As for those rear standing pegs, Shinglehead definitely got off to a bad start with those. The first thing they did was tear into his ankle after a lawnmower. Fun city.

We all rode the bike, and with the exception of Shing, nobody had any problems with their feet hitting the platforms. He's always had huge feet. The average-footed rider shouldn't have too much trouble.

As for the colors, all that's available now is white or lavender, which really isn't all that bad. They should have some new colors out pretty soon, so be on the lookout.

There. Now you've heard the full story from the man himself—Shinglehead, aka The Wheatfield Warrior. Take it from us, folks, not many things survive his detonation test. Congratulations, Hanter.



Can-can lawnmower, Wheatfield, Indiana style.



The head angle on the Hanter is very misleading—at a hair over 70 degrees you'd think it would steer like a Harley. It didn't. In fact, it actually felt decent. This bike would make a great first freestyle bike. Good components, good price, good geometry—good deal.