

"We shouldn't test bikes with names like that."
 "Like what, Buff?"
 "Cheap bikes. K-Mart bikes. Sears. Huffy. Murray. Look at this bike. It

that aren't on your ignore/snore/bore list."
 "Is that the cheapest bike we ever tested?"
 "Adjusted for the annual infla-

tion so the forks were getting choppered."
 "Yeah, but that was only after you started doing the tabletops."
 "Yeah, well . . . and the cranks bent."
 "Are you positive?"
 "Totally pos, and the pedals twinkled a little."
 "No trubs with the frame, though?"
 "None that I can see."
 "Oz, what time is it?"
 "Six fifteen. What time's your date, R. L.?"
 "The movie starts at 7:30."
 "Better start thinking about the late show. What are you seeing anyway?"
 "Bertolucci's *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man* plus *La Cage Aux Folles II*."
 "Oh."
 "Suppose I told you the bike only cost \$140. What would you say then?"

HUFFY PRO 3 THUNDER

It is a wonder They didn't blunder And totally plunder The Pro 3 Thunder

Because R.L. and Buff Got totally tough And really quite rough Doin' all kinds of stuff Even falling on their duff Testing this Huff . . . Y

TESTING BY R.L. AND BUFF
 PHOTOS BY OZ AND LEN
 DIALOGUE BY EVERYBODY

even has a coaster brake and a rear caliper. What's that?"
 "Hold on. Think it over. You've just finished testing a bike at the legendary, semi-ominous, totally hellacious Corona downhill track, and it was totally rideable at the end of the day."
 "Except for the bars. We had to swap bars when the cross brace weld broke, remember?"
 "Oh, yeah, that. But the bike didn't really have that many battle scars when we got done, not compared to some of the other bikes we've tested. Bikes with names

tion degeneration, it is."
 "That's the point. It survived you guys on a killer track and it's really a street bike or entry level racer. The bike handled fairly well, didn't it? Not great, but fairly well. It didn't bend . . ."
 ". . . The bars bent a bit before the cross brace broke. Did you look at the bars? There was rust around the weld joint. That means oxidation during welding."
 "Ah, I see you read the stress article in the June issue."
 "So the bars bent a little . . ."
 ". . . And the fork stem bent a lit-

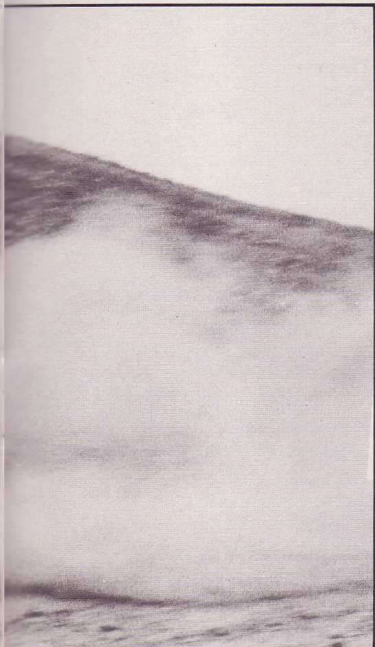


Terrific tabletopping by the Radical Lad. This is the kinda stuff the Huffy survived.

BICYCLE MOTOCROSS ACTION
OFFICIAL TEST



Raunchy Legs gettin' crazy at Corona. He would be going full bore down the first straight then pitch it in the soft stuff at the edge of the first sweeper. Check his left hand.



This is the Huffy in half-race trim. Which means we removed everything that wasn't absolutely necessary for racing. We didn't replace any components at this point. The weight went down to just under 30 pounds. This would be a pretty fair beginner's race bike.

"Len's been talking on the phone again."

"I find out all sorts of stuff that way."

"Like what?"

"Like did you know that Huffly has been very quietly testing real racing prototypes. Mostly in the mid-west. No I.D. on the bikes. Hush hush stuff. Supposedly some of their marketing people are in favor of getting into racing, having a team and all that. Or they just might start sponsoring a major race or two. Anyway, we'll probably be seeing and hearing more of the Huffly name in the future."

"What else did you find out?"

"Well, Huffly is the number one mass market seller in America. They've been selling BMX bikes for three years, and they have plants in Oklahoma, California, and Ohio."

"... snore ..."

"Wake up, R. L. will ya? This is good stuff. Why are you turning up the stereo, Oz?"

"... I was country when country wasn't cool ..."

"That's Oz, huh? He was Okie years ago. It's just like narrow ties and box toe shoes. If you wait long enough, anything can get popular."

"The only thing I want to know is what exactly we're testing?"

"A Pro 3 Thunder model. There are five Pro Thunders, all using the same mild steel frame. They range from \$130 to \$190 for the aluminum alloy components Pro 5."

"Did Steve put on those Z-Rims, Oz?"

"No, they came with the bike. You can get either regular Araya alloy wheels or the ACS Z-Rims. Same price. There's a special edition red and chrome model too."

"The guys are falling asleep again. Say something exciting."

"Did I ever tell you about the wonderful work being done by the National Society for the Preservation of Willie Nelson's navel lint?"

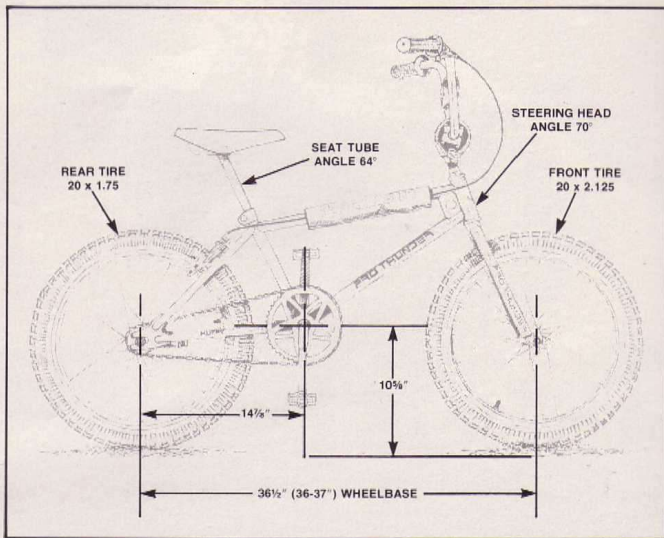
"Now I'm falling asleep."

"What's this Competition Certified sticker mean?"

The Pro 3, 4, and 5 have it, the other two models don't."

"Holy cabonzos."

"Wow. Great cowabunga. What does competition certified mean?"



Buff doin' stuff like this helped chopper the fork and bend the cranks. Not a bunch, but some.

Like baton twirling competition?"

"No, track certified. Those models have beefier frame gussets."

"Ya don't say."

"They test the frame to make sure

it can handle jumps up to a certain height."

"And you guys didn't tweak the frame, did you?"

"Nope."

"Got any other stuff about the Huffly?"

"Well, they have a sort of racer cruiser called the Super Thunder, only it's more of a mountain bike, long wheelbase, high crank, but they've made it look like a BMXer."

"Don't elab, Mohab. That's drab."

"You know, Mike, if you'd stop eating all that grease and chow down on real food you might be big enough to ride a cruiser someday."

"I still think you guys are expecting too much for an economy bike."

"Well, for being a street bike or a thrasher or whatever, it was alright."

"What about the geometry?"

"It was alright. Everything was just okay. Just kind of standard. Very mild. Nothing really hot."

"What do you want for \$140?"

"Quality, sturdiness, max handling, Swedish massage and sauna."

"That's all, huh?"

"Would you say the steering was neutral, a bit slower than a top race bike?"

"Yeah, I guess so."

"Suppose I told you when they



It was curb endo time out in front of the secret headquarters of the sinister Wiz Pubs.

built those bikes they took a Torker and Red Line and kind of mixed their geometry together to make the Thunder, and then they slowed the steering a little by adding more rake."

"HmMMM."

"Did it handle neutral, except it was a bit heavy and that made it feel a little sluggish?"

"I guess you could say that ... It did feel small though."

"How long's the wheelbase, Len?"

"Thirty six and a half inches."

"So it's not a short bike."

"It's probably the way the bars are. The gooseneck sets them back near the steering head centerline ..."

"... Yeah, the bars come back toward your lap, but the shape's pretty good ..."

"... Until the cross bar snaps. Then they get kinda flexy."

"Any comments on the Z-Rims?"

"Yeah, I'd say so."

"Say what, Mike?"

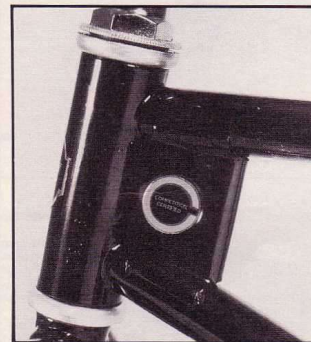
"That they're a good idea. I had a pair. I had no problems with them. Graphite would be hot."

"Do the Z-Rims add a little class to the Huffly?"

"Yeah. I was watching R. L. riding and the bike looks good. Did you check the rims afterwards? Huffly ought to use different brake pads. Skyway Tuff Pads or Kool-Stops. The yellow rims were totally black from the brake pads. It's like having black sidewalls on your Stutz Bearcat roadster."

"Did I tell you the knobblies were washing out on that hard gravel berm? It had to be the tires. We tried the same thing with the Supergoose and the Snakebellys didn't wash."

"Huffly told me that Cheng Shin is building some exclusive tires for



The Competition Certified bikes have beefier gussets. The frame handled our tabletopping and downhill thrashing.

them, like Snakebellys, that'll go on the bike as soon as they're ready."

"Good, they need them."

"What do you think of the package Steve put together back at the office?"

"You mean the lifesize control cockpit for playing Asteroids—with real death rays?"

"No, the Huffly with the different components on it."

"That's what we should have ridden."

"Hey, we have to test 'em the way they build them."

"Yeah, but that bike probably would have held up fine."

"You know, for \$140 I don't see how you can go wrong. It's a bike you could take up the race ladder."

"By the time you make it race

HUFFY PRO 3 THUNDER SPECIFICATIONS

FINISH: Black with gold trim.

WEIGHT: 32 pounds, 2 ounces with pads and street accessories. 30 pounds, 2 ounces with pads and plate, no street accessories.

RETAIL COST: Approximately \$140.

FRAME: Huffly Pro Thunder, Competition Certified, 1017 carbon steel.

FORK: Huffly Pro Thunder, leading axle, 1023 carbon steel.

HANDLEBARS: Steel V-bars.

GRIPS: Plastic Oakley copies.

STEM: Huffly Slant Top.

RIMS: ACS Z-Rims, Zytel plastic.

SPOKES: .080/36.

HUBS: Shimano steel low-flange front hub.

BRAKES: Huffly steel straight lever, Huffly steel side-pull rear caliper, Shimano coaster brake rear hub.

TIRES: Dae Yung (Also comes with Carlisle or Cheng Shin.).

PEDALS: KKT.

CRANKS: Thun, one-piece, 6 1/2 inches, forged steel.

FRONT SPROCKET: 44T sprocket, steel.

REAR SPROCKET: 19T Shimano.

SEAT: Troxel Suzuki-style plastic with plastic undercarriage, removable quilted padding.

SEAT POST: Huffly mild steel.

SEAT POST CLAMP: Huffly mild steel.

EXTRAS: Racing pads (made by Rad Pad).

OPTIONS: Also available with Araya alloy rims. Special edition chrome (red components) model also available.

CPSC APPROVED: Yes.

FOR MORE INFO: Write Advertising Department, Huffly Corporation

MANUFACTURER: Huffly Corporation

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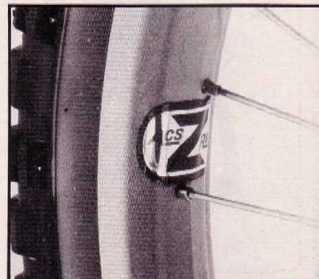
HUFFY

ready though, it would be expensive. Cranks, tires, 16-tooth freewheel, bars, gooseneck."

"How many changes are we talking about?"

"We're talking race."

"Yeah, but you can do as little



The ACS Z-Rims are part of the package. No trubs. The Dae Yung knobblies slipped some. They're scheduled to be replaced by Snakebelly type Cheng Shins made especially for Huffy.

or as much as you want. When you decide the frame and fork aren't up to what you need, buy something else."

"I've been thinking."

"About what?"

"About what Linus said in Peanuts this morning. He said: Life is like a ten speed bicycle."

"What's the punch line?"

"Most of us have gears we never use."

"Maybe it's life is like a BMX bike, it takes some time in the pits to get your gearing set."

"I've been thinking too."

"About what, R.L.?"

"That this bike is probably pretty good for what it's supposed to be. It could be like on the top of the K-Mart hit list. This one could probably be sold in a bike shop. It would be like bottom line in a bike shop or top of the line at a K-Mart."

"A kind of missing link between K-Mart specials and BMX shops, huh?"

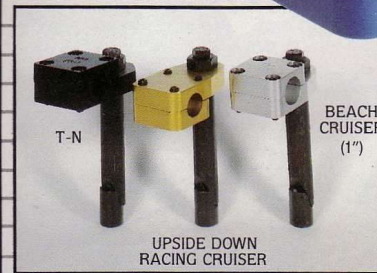
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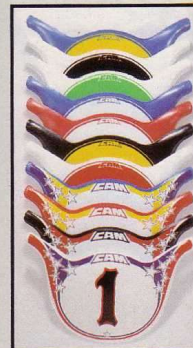
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