



□ It all started about a year ago when we were strolling down one of the many aisles at the Bicycle Dealer Showcase Expo in Long Beach, California. If you've ever had the opportunity to attend one of these trade shows, you'll know what we mean when we talk about "BMX burnout." BMX burnout occurs after several hours of walking the aforementioned aisles and viewing literally hundreds of BMX bikes. Many display the same mass-produced diamond-style frame-sets, the same component packages, even similar graphics and decals. Even for the eat-sleep-and-breathe BMXer it's easy to get burned out. But then again, it's times like these that we seem to run across the few truly special BMX packages—oases in the middle of the BMX desert, as it were. Such was the case of the MT Racing lineup. There it was. No flashy booth. No obnoxious salesman. No flirtatious, bikini-clad airhead passing out brochures. Just a clean, innovative product. We were impressed.

**WHO, WHAT AND WHY?**

MT Racing is the registered trade name of Ming Tien Hang Corporation. Contrary to popular belief, Ming Tien Hang does not stand for "hang ten" in Taiwanese. The meaning of ming in Chinese is "brightness," while tien is

"the guarded kingdom." The Ming Tien Corporation was established back in 1975 in Taipei, Taiwan, to manufacture and export various bicycles worldwide. However, it was during mid-1981 that they decided to get involved in the BMX market. Their first models went on display at the 23rd International Cycle Show in New York. Shortly afterwards we saw them in Long Beach. Currently, they offer six models to choose from. Never being ones to mess around, we contacted

them and requested they send us their top-of-the-liner—the AeroPro.

Well, that seems to take care of *who* and *what*, but how about *why*? Why, because it's a slick package. And why, because it combines two rather controversial topics: aerodynamics and Taiwanese quality. This is gettin' kinda juicy, isn't it? Read on. **AERODYNAMIC FRAME-AND-FORK SET**

Whether it's BMX or not, the bicycle is a very traditional machine. Let's

*They don't call it the AeroPro for nothing. In the air this puppy handles. Good weight distribution. Well balanced. Plenty of leg room for everybody up to about 13.*



# AEROPRO

Taiwanese air force

By Dean Bradley





# AEROPRO



The AeroPro's elliptical fork legs feature RRS-like dropouts. The overall finish quality, decals, etc., were pretty well received by all.



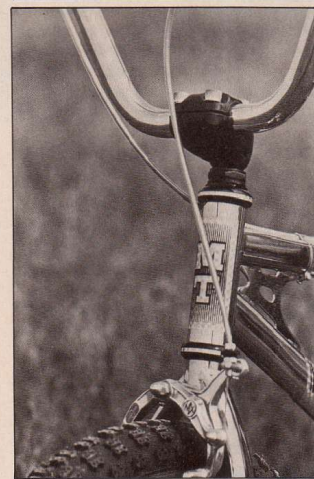
Wheels and tires on the AeroPro surprised us. The Araya Aero look-alikes didn't tweak, and the Cheng Shin skin-walls carved like freshly sharpened knives.



Martin was all over the AeroPro like a cheap suit. Though better set up for riders about five-foot to five-foot-six, the AeroPro is still tough enough to take on the big boys.

downhill tracks come into style or all of us go bionic, aerodynamics won't do much for us. They won't hurt, but they won't help enough for you or me to notice. Except, of course, in our greatest racing tool: our heads. For a further explanation of aerodynamics and their relationship to BMX, check our December 1982 issue's Skyway T/A test.

Enough of the overly technical stuff, and down to the meat—the frame and fork. Aerodynamics play a big part in the AeroPro's styling. As we mentioned earlier, it definitely caught our eye. The AeroPro's top and down tubes as well as the forks are teardrop chromoly tubing, while the seat and chain stays are beautifully tapered. Add a plate-style head gusset and bottom bracket, along with RRS-like fork drops and beefy rear drops, and



Up front we find Chang Star (Dia-Compe MX-1000 copy) caliper, Hsin Lung cold-forged stem, YST alloy headset and chromoly bars. Also, how could we forget to mention the unique head gusset—something you just don't see these days.



Clean bottom-bracket action. A simple chain stay gusset keeps rear-end whip to a minimum, while chromoly cranks, power disc and YST chain put the power to the ground.

face it, how aerodynamic can you make a bike that, besides the handlebar and pedals, is only about three inches wide? If you could, they would have a long time ago, right? Right. Which brings us to an info sheet that Ming Tien sent along with the AeroPro. This sheet specifies, along with other more useful data, their current "managerial guidelines."

The first of three guidelines is "to design a frame and fork with the latest market trends in mind." Well, if you follow the ten-speed stuff, then you'll know that the "aero" ten-speed trend progressed into the "aero" BMX trend whether we liked it or not. Please don't get us wrong. The aero trend did nothing but good. But as we've already noted, it did more good for styling and the guys who are going to be going over 60 mph than for mix-it-up, accelerate and decelerate guys like us. Until the time either eye-watering

CW Racing has become a powerful force in BMX racing with factory riders like Danny Steplight, Billy Griggs, Debbi Kalsow, and Roger Moore. These racers are consistent winners on their CW frames, handlebars, and other racing products designed and developed for riders that race to win.

You can become a big winner with CW Racing products too! Check out all the great CW frames and accessories at your nearest bike shop today. After all, you may become their only competition.

**Roger Moore**  
Roger is a dynamite rider that has become a consistent winner all over the country on a XM Mini frame. His carefree attitude and quick smile hides his determination to be the best. Watch out competition!

**Debbi Kalsow**  
There are few words that describe Debbi to most people — The Best!! She is the ABA's 1st #1 girl in the history of the sport. Debbi is so incredibly fast on her ZX-Pro frame that most boys won't even race her. Her personality makes her just as much of a winner off the track too.

**Billy Griggs**  
Billy is virtually unbeatable on his CZ-Phase 1 or 24TFM Cruiser frames wherever he races. His total preparation of his bikes and himself makes him the most consistent winner in his class.

**Danny Steplight**  
A great rider that spells double trouble for the competition in every race he enters. Danny rides both the ZX-Pro frame and the 24TFM Cruiser consistently to win all over the country.

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ment. It wasn't only the frame and fork that caught our eyes, you know! From the ground up, it works.

Cheng Shin skinwalls, Sumo Aero aluminum rims, Tung Ho 14-gauge spokes and Kuen Teng hubs start the ball rolling. Sure, you've never heard of any of these brands before, neither had we. The fact is, they looked good, rolled well, tracked like a dream and held up. What more do you want?

The drive train sang the same tune. Brands you've never heard of, offering performance you've come to expect. In fact, throughout the whole component package, the only brand names we did recognize were a Sun-Tour freewheel, Viscount saddle and Fuan grips. However, as we would soon find out, brand names don't always a hot bike make. . . .

**PERFORMANCE**  
So there we were, sitting on an

# AEROPRO



Does this mean Taiwan BMX bikes have taken a turn for the better? In the AeroPro's case the answer seems to be a refreshing yes. Clean styling, handling and price are all right in there.

aero-style frame and fork complete with brand names that were in desperate need of a translator. We sure wanted this thing to test out as well as it looked, but, with all this unknown stuff underneath us, we felt admittedly skeptical. Actually, just about as skeptical as when we were strolling down that aisle and first saw the MT AeroPro.

As it turned out, pleasant surprises were to come in pairs. The AeroPro rode almost as well as it looked. At an even 25 pounds the AeroPro felt light and lively. No wonder. Combine that with its 73- and 72-degree head and seat angles, and you've got a pretty fast scooter. We didn't say skittish, either. The AeroPro will work on the race course as well as the street. . . especially if you're around ten to 14 years old. Over that you'll find that you have to go to some taller bars and

## BMX PLUS!

1. Bike: MT Racing AeroPro 20-inch complete bike.
2. Age range: 10 years old and up.
3. Country of origin: Taiwan.
4. Intended use: Racing/trail/street.
5. Wheelbase: 35-1/2" to 36-1/2".
6. Bottom bracket height: 11-3/8".
7. Chain stay length: 15".
8. Steering head angle: 73°.
9. Seat tube angle: 72°.
10. Frame: MT Racing AeroPro, 4130 chromoly, heli-arc welded, chrome plated. Features: teardrop top and down tubes, tapered seat and chain stays, 4-1/4" head tube, large bottom bracket, head gusset, chain stay gusset.
11. Fork: MT Racing AeroPro, 4130 chromoly, heli-arc welded, chrome plated. Features: teardrop legs, centerline axle design.
12. Rims: Sumo alloy, aero-style, 20" x 1.75", 36-hole.
13. Spokes: 36/080, cadmium plated.
14. Hubs: Kuen Teng alloy, low-flange, loose ball.
15. Tires: Cheng Shin C-714 skinwalls, 1.75" rear, 2.125" front, 35 psi.
16. Cranks: Ching Sung, chromoly, one-piece, 178mm.
17. Pedals: Weligo, alloy platform with chromoly shafts.
18. Chain: YST 1/2" x 1/8".
19. Bottom bracket: YST, steel with retainers balls.
20. Front sprocket: An Lung, alloy, quick-change, 44T.
21. Freewheel: SunTour 16T.
22. Brakes: Chang Star No. 900 with two-finger levers, front and rear.
23. Headset: YST alloy.
24. Stem: Hsin Lung MX-850, cold-forged duralumin 4-bolt clamp with chromoly shaft.
25. Handlebars: Hsin Lung, 4130 chromoly, heli-arc welded, chrome plated, 7-1/2" rise, 25" width.
26. Grips: Fuan F-1 style.
27. Seating: Viscount plastic with padding and "Nu-Buck" leather cover, Chang Star fluted alloy post and clamp.
28. Miscellaneous: 3 MT Racing safety pads.
29. Overall weight: 25 lbs.
30. Approximate retail price: \$330 to \$350.
31. For additional information contact: Ming Tien Hang Corp., 12102 E. Park St., Cerritos, CA 90701; (213) 926-6660.



maybe a laid-back post.

As far as cranks, pedals, seat and stem went, we liked them. You may thrash the seat, because it's suede covered, and you may bend the fluted alloy seatpost, but other than that, no problems.

### SPELLING IT OUT

Okay, okay. We hate to admit it, but we finally found a Taiwanese BMX bike that we really like. And even though we can't pronounce a single brand name on the bike, it seems to work with the precision and dependability we have come to expect from some of today's most popular brands.

Of course, the bottom line is the AeroPro's \$350 price tag. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that's a deal. The all-chromoly frame, fork, bars, cranks, pedal and stem shafts, along with a well-thought-out component package all add up. Good price, good bike. Will pleasant surprises never end? And just when we thought we were suffering from a case of terminal BMX burnout, too! ☐

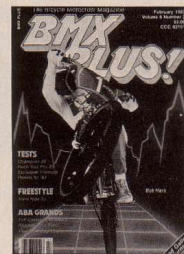
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