

#### THE LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH OF BMX BIKES

The scene: Outside the Sherman Oaks Galleria, centered in Los Angeles' sprawling San Fernando Valley. Two warm babes, Melissa and Renee, are walking. (Renee's the one in pink legwarmers.) Let's listen in.

"Isn't shopping the absolute most bitchen thing to do?"

"Totally.

"Mom wants me to buy those

spaz shoes like Lisa has, but they're so-o-o-o boring."

Barf City. Image is, like, absolutely completely everything."

Suddenly, a smoke black, turbofortified Mazda RX-7 screeches to a stop near the mall entrance. Both girls check out the red haired driver as he emerges from his car.

"Wo! Cruisemobile, wow! And look at that way foxy dude!"

"A maximum babe and a half. Really. And totally mature. I can

Melissa looks at the RX-7's license plate. It reads: BMX PRO.

"Wo (gasp)! I know who that dude is. Bobby Woods. He's a racer, like, for money and stuff."

Andy Ruffell. 16 years old. Factory Mongoose in England. Hits major races in the U.S. about twice a year. Extremely fast and aggressive.



The Mongoose Pro Class. This beaut' is ready to go, right out of the crate. Don't change nuthin'.

"Ew, maximum exciting. Gnarly for sure. Like what does he race?" "BMX and cars."

"Double outrageous."

"He went to Valley Professional High with Samantha."

"Oh, he'd just have to be from the Valley, bein' so super cool and everything."



This bike consists of one long series of excellent details. Like the welding, the pierced rims, the sealed-bearing hubs, the drilled dropouts, and on and on . . .



We wanted to find out just how strong the new BMX Products pierced rims were. Buff suggested jumping the hood of his lifted 4X4 Toyota out in the parking lot. On asphalt. With no landing ramp. He and R.L. went for it three or four times each. It was brutal. This turned out to be a killer test of everything on the bike. Check the sidebar to see how the rims made out. As for the rest of the bike, nothing tweaked, twinked, twanged, or was latered. Nothing. Truly amazin'.

MARCH 1983

## **MONGOOSE**

"He has a girl friend."

"Oh, mondo depressing."

"My brother, Jason, showed me his picture. He was world champion one year. He races for Mongoose. Like, they're in Chatsworth.'

"Ew, Chatsworth. Near the Topanga Plaza. Bitchen mall."

"Jason just absolutely completely fully worships his Mongoose. He has all these ads and brochures and stuff. He'd just absolutely kill for some Mongoose that's just out."

"It's like excellent, huh?"

"Really. He says it's mega major maximum brilliant."

"Wo, that's really cool."

The young man disappears from sight and the girls' attention soon shifts to the shop windows.



Reach fer the sky, ya' varmint. R.L. doin' a frame stand. This is an excellent way to test the steering balance of a bike. If the front end would have flopped one way or the other, R.L. would have been history. The Goose got a straight A report card.

"Ew, look at those dolphin shorts."

"Wo, a way cute outfit."

"Oh, there's my mom. Like I have to book now.'

"Seevabye."

The letters started comin' in as



soon as the December issue hit the stands. What's that new bike Bobby Woods was riding at the Pittsburgh Grand National?

Now you know. A prototype of the Pro Class. At Pittsburgh Bobby's classy Pro Class riding netted him top Pro Money plus a second that clinched the NBL War of the Stars Pro Trophy Series championship for

Mongoose used Bobby as the pri-



Woods: "You want me to jump that? You gotta be kiddin'.

mary development rider for the first few prototypes. Then they let the rest of the team loose with the bikes. Final prototypes were race tested by the team at Magic Mountain.

The prototype was initially tagged the L20 (for light 20-inch). The inspiration for the Pro Class name came from teamster Brett Allen: (The Pro Class name will be used for future products. The frame, fork, handlebar, and wheels currently carry the tag.)

For years, Mongoose has been known for their indestructable, almost kidproof frames and forks.

But strength has a cost. Usually it's weight. Mongoose decided the weight had to go. Their goal: make it light, keep it strong - cost be darned.

The new Pro Class, a full one and a half pounds lighter than the Team Mongoose, allows BMX Products to offer the featherfied racer that's been missing from their model line.

The Pro Class frame is three ounces under four pounds. Some



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**MARCH 1983** 

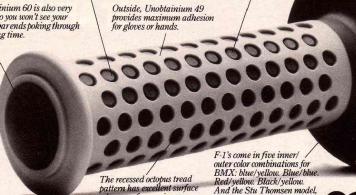
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## **MONGOOSE PRO CLASS**

weight was trimmed by using larger-diameter, thinner-walled tubing. Different tube sizes, proportioned to stress needs, is new for Mongoose.

Eliminating the head gusset also shaved ounces. The bottom bracket on the Pro Class has been raised 1/8-inch higher than the Team Mon-

A major concern was retaining frame stiffness with a lighter bike. Mongoose was well aware that the major complaint with many light frames is flex, especially in the rear section where power is generated. To counteract possible flex, Mongoose came up with a loop type rear section using larger diameter (3/4inch) tubing.

Mongoose also upgraded their welding techniques. Thin-walled chrome-moly is more susceptible to being weakened by welding heat. Less welding heat means less weakening, so the factory uses lighter welding rods and lower temperatures. This takes longer and costs more, but increases quality.

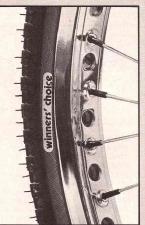
Additionally, only the most experi-

#### PRO CLASS RIMS

Our testing of the new Pro Class rims from BMX Products was fearsome. Cruel and inhumane. Totally unfair.

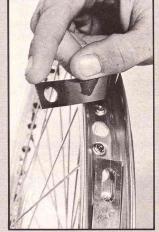
But there was a reason for this excessive violence. A very good

We already knew the rims were lighter (see accompanying chart)



The new state-of-the-art in BMX rims: Pro Class.

than any other quality 20X1.75 aluminum rim commonly used in BMX racing. What we didn't know



These rims employ a mylar rim strip that keeps the tube from bulging through the pierced lightening holes, protects the tube from the spoke nipples, and is much lighter than a normal rubber rim strip. The mylar, which shows through the holes. comes in several colors, Trick,

## 20 X 1.75 ALUMINUM RIM WEIGHT COMPARISON

BMX PRODUCTS PRO CLASS	ARAYA 7X	UKAI HE
13 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>5</sub> OUNCES	14 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub> OUNCES	14 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub> OUNCES

NOTE: A normal rubber rim strip weighs one ounce. Pro Class rims come with a special mylar rim strip that weighs only 1/5 ounce. The above weights are for rims only; rim strips were not included when weighing. None of the rims were chrome plated, which would add approximately one ounce of additional weight.

was if the addition of lightening holes had weakened them.

If these rims were lighter than the others, while maintaining full strength, the impact on BMX racing was going to be substantial.

Overcoming the inertia (tendency of an object to remain at rest) of the rotating masses (tires, tubes, rims, etc.) of a bicycle is approximately three times more critical than overcoming the inertia of its non-rotating masses. In other words: an ounce or two difference in rim weight can mean a foot or two difference at the end of the first straight.

That's why we subjected these rims to killer tests. We had to know for sure how strong they were. The increased acceleration wouldn't be worth beans if your rim folded on you half way through the main.

And so, you ask, what were the results of all this brutalizing? We learned that the engineers at BMX Products had done their homework. We put one small flat spot in the front rim which could easily have been corrected by adjusting the spokes. That's all. Incredible.

In our opinion, these rims are as strong as the best 20X1.75 aluminum rims on the market.

CONCLUSION: BMX rim technology has just been dialed up a couple clicks. Pro Class rims are lighter, better looking, as strong as, and cost about the same as the best 20X1.75 aluminum rims currently on the market.

If your competition is running them and you're not, you are at a disadvantage. Slight, but a disadvantage nevertheless.

Facts are facts, pard'.

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## **MONGOOSE PRO CLASS**

#### **PRICE & SPECS**

COMPLETE BICYCLE PRICE: Approximately \$450. FINISH AVAILABLE: Black chrome COMPLETE BICYCLE WEIGHT (without pads or plate); 24 pounds 5 ounces. FRAME WEIGHT: 3 pounds, 13 ounces.



FORK WEIGHT: 1 pound, 10 ounces. FORK RAKE: 1% inches. STEERING HEAD TUBE LENGTH: 4

HANDLEBAR RISE (C/L of stem clamp to C/L of grips): 81/2 inches. TOP TUBE O.D.: 11/8 inches. DOWN TUBE O.D.: 11/4 inches.

FORK LEG O.D.: 1 inch. BOTTOM BRACKET TYPE: American.

#### COMPONENTS

FRAME: Mongoose Pro Class, chrome-

FORK: Mongoose Pro Class, chrome-moly. centerline axle.

HANDLEBAR: Mongoose Pro Class, stainless steel.

HANDLEBAR STEM: Team Mongoose Competition, aluminum alloy clamps with

chrome-moly shaft. GRIPS: Team Mongoose, rubber.

**HEADSET:** Mongoose.

RIMS: BMX Products Pro Class II, pierced aluminum

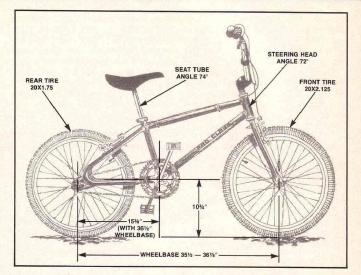
SPOKES: 36/.080-.060-.080. HUBS: Suzue, sealed bearing. TIRES: Mongoose Winner's Choice.

BRAKES: Dia-Compe MX, front and rear.

BRAKE LEVERS: Dia-Compe Tech 2, front and rear.

BRAKE CABLES: Dia-Compe. PEDALS: SR. one-piece aluminum with chrome-moly spindle.

CRANK: Mongoose, one-piece, chromemoly, 180mm.



BOTTOM BRACKET SET: Mongoose. FRONT SPROCKET: Shimano aluminum chainwheel, 44 teeth. SPIDER: Mongoose chrome-moly. FREEWHEEL: Shimano, 16 teeth. CHAIN: Regina, 1/8-inch. SEAT: Mongoose Aero. SEAT POST: Mongoose, stainless steel. SEAT POST CLAMP: Dia-Compe.

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

PURPOSE: Racing (up to and including Pro). Super quality street bike. AGE RANGE: 12 and up for racing, 10 and

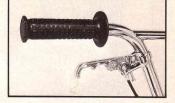
up for street. QUALITY OF FINISH: Excellent. QUALITY OF WELDING: Excellent.

HANDLING: Excellent acceleration. No flex on starts. Quick turner, Low crank hanger lets you lay it over with confidence. Level in the air. Easy to adjust to.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: The bike is excellent. The name tells it all, Pro Class . . . It doesn't feel like a copy of anything. It has its own personality . . . Maybe you'll start seeing a lot more Mongooses at the track now instead of just on the street . . . The sealed bearings make it feel smooth and solid . . . Those wheels do make it a hair quicker on acceleration . . . You won't find any jumps at a track as rad as what we were doing on asphalt. The rims definitely aren't any weaker than regular rims, that's for sure

... Once the word gets out about these rims, it'll be like everybody will have to have them if they want to be competitive

... After all that jumping, everything on there was proven; pedals, crank, rims, frame, fork, handlebar, gooseneck, seat



everything . . . The handlebar is good. It reminds me of a CW with the high crossbar . . . Pick out the one strong point about this bike? Everything! . . . There is a certain overall quality that costs an awful lot that doesn't show - but it's there . . . You're paying a lot for looks and lightness. It probably has that much quality in it, but for that price you expect a few more expensive components . . . You know that old saying? Don't wake sleeping giants - or Mongoose, They've come out of hibernation at the top racing level . . . This bike is an indication that Mongoose is apparently tired of the conservative approach to racing . . . That's the best looking bike I've ever seen. that's for sure.

TEST INPUT: R.L. Osborn, Mike Buff. Steve Giberson, Bob Osborn, Bobby Woods, and Len Weed.

### **FOR MORE INFO**

FOR MORE INFO: See your local Mongoose dealer MANUFACTURER:

**BMX Products** 9621 Irondale Avenue Chatsworth, California 91311 Tel: (213) 341-5455

enced elite of the Mongoose welding crew work on the Pro Class.

The fork weighs just one pound. ten ounces. Mongoose selected larger-diameter, thinner-walled tubing which is heat-treated after welding to increase strength.

Then, to top off the package, Mongoose unleashed a sparkling look genuine black chrome.

The chrome complements Mongoose's always impeccable welding.

Bobby Woods first raced a Pro Class prototype last summer at Narler Park. The bike he raced at Pittsburgh was the next-to-last proto-

Final input led to increasing all major tube diameters for even great-



We're not exactly sure what Bob Woods was doing here, but it looked good. You all know that Woody is a full-bore factory dude on Mongoose, right? And faster than greased owl poop? It's true.

er rigidity. Bobby told us, however, that the Pittsburgh prototype was sturdy enough already.

A tad more length (%-inch) was added to wheelbase, behind the crank hanger, to cure a slightly light front end.

Mongoose bikes have always been strong. Now the Mongoose faithful can go for strong and light and total looks too. That's a hard package to beat. You could call it a completely class act.





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