

PRODYNE

Featuring Bear Products

Built-Up By Dave's Bike Shop; Riverside

by Hilary Clay Hicks photos by Dave House test-ridden by Ronny House

SPECIAL CRUISER



What are they talking about, ride the space shuttle it says?

The folks at Prodyne don't just build bicycle fixtures. They build 'em to aerospace tolerances, the same way they weld stuff they make for the space shuttle, Lear jets, Bell helicopters and Teledyne rocket parts.

If somebody told you that they machined their BMX parts to .003-.005 tolerance, you'd probably think they were lying. Except that those are the aerospace-type requirements that Prodyne meets.

For example, on the Prodyne cruiser frame, the head tube is ma-

Ronny rode the Prodyne special cruiser with Bear components and loved the way it handled because it had geometry familiar to him.

chined out so that bearing races will fit smoothly and snugly. The dimensions of the frame are within .010 over all, the fixtures within .002.

Let's go back and take a broad look at this baby. First, let's talk about what it's like, and then describe how it works.

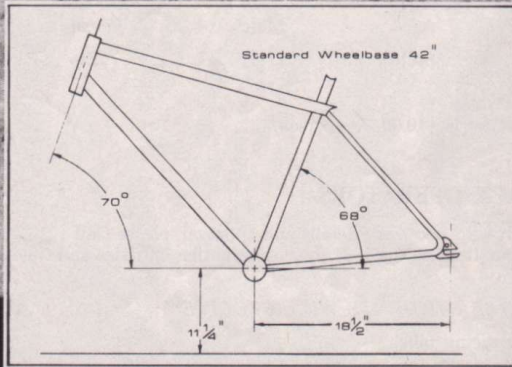
The frame comes in two basic forms, the small and large bottom bracket models. These are even lighter than when first introduced. The small b.b. unit weighs five pounds, nine ounces; the large b.b. model, five pounds, eleven ounces. Prodyne saved two ounces, for example, by machining material from the inside of the large bottom bracket,

which you might notice before assembly.

The standard wheelbase is 42 inches, with the center of the crank to the center of the rear drop-out at 18½ inches, with the crank at 11¼ inches off the ground. Please see the diagram for the angles.

The whole thing is made out of 4130 chromemoly seamless aircraft tubing. The aircraft specification tubing is a little more expensive, but it is uniformly perfect inch-for-inch.

The new models have a hole in the drop-out for a rack if one wishes to make a mountain bike out of it. This application has proven very popular for this frame.





This bike came equipped with (as built by Dave's Bike Shop, Riverside): Prodyne cruiser frame, Prodyne handlebars, Prodyne seatpost clamp, Bear components (bottom bracket, pedals, headset, gooseneck), Haro lever, Uni-seat, DuraAce cranks, Dia-Compe brakes, Sunshine hubs, Araya 26-inch wheels with Mitsubishi stadium tires.

The top and downtubes are 1 1/4 inch diameter tubing, for maximum torquing stability. Since round tubing is always best for torque distribution, this is perfectly round tubing to spread stress evenly.

The bike we tested here also featured Prodyne bars, which have a 4 1/2 inch rise, pullback of 13 degrees, are 28 inches wide, made of 7/8 outside diameter tubing, .049 wall; and 5/8 O.D. tubing, .035 wall on the

crossbar. They are as light as can be made at one pound, seven ounces. They are pre-polished, welded, then chromed.

We had our bike put together by Dave's Bike Shop in Riverside. We added a CW Fork; Bear bottom bracket, pedals, headset and gooseneck; Araya 26-inch wheels with Mitsubishi stadium tires, Dia-Compe brakes, Sunshine hubs, Haro lever, Uni-Seat, DuraAce crank and finally a Prodyne prototype seat post clamp.

When Ronny took it out to the Corona-Norco track, operated by the YMCA, he got enthused right off the bat. He found it to be an exciting, special cruiser, extremely light, a real status item.

"I particularly appreciate the Prodyne-Bear combo," said Ronny. "It rode smooth. The geometry was just the way I like it."

These observations were borne-out by the ease with which Ronny handled this bike. And we couldn't help but notice that it is a beautiful piece.

For the consumer, the angle is that you can't get a better frame than a Prodyne, and that Bear makes some dynamite components. Put 'em together on a bike and you've got one lightweight flying machine—a space shuttle, as it were. ✕

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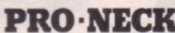
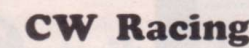
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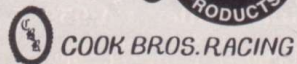
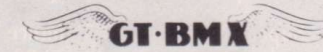


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