

★ T ★ E ★ S ★ T ★



**PROFILE
combats
flex problems**

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PROFILE have been on the market for a number of years now, and have a very respectable name in the BMX world.

Their products have always been designed with competition needs in mind, so you can be sure their creations are top class and racing orientated. Once again they have come to the front with a first rate frame and fork combination, perhaps a little strange in looks, but only because of the ladder design used.

Remember the last time you came out of the starting gate and you thought you felt your bike twist a little? It was probably your imagination, but that really does happen, and it's called frame flex. It means that you're not getting maximum power to the ground. That's due to the downward force

you're putting on the frame as you pedal out, and the pulling force on the steering head as you strain up on the bars. Now that's not a big hassle for little guys, but look at people like Stu Thomsen — man, legs like telegraph poles are really potent, and put unreal stress on the frame of a bike.

Rather than using thicker tubing, Profile has used a ladder design to combat the flex problem. It's simple really, they've welded a bar from the top of the seat tube, to halfway along the down tube. This bar helps to reduce the downward force put on the frame — acting as a straining bar. By doing it this way, Profile engineers have found an increase in strength, without adding a great deal more weight — an important factor in BMX.

With the Profile frame and fork weighing in at 5lb 1oz, it certainly can't be classified as a heavy weight.

With a headset angle of 73°, the bike seems tall. Profile has balanced that with the wheelbase measuring out at 95 cm — a good combination for any type of riding.

As for the brakes, the Profile is versatile. The rear brake stay will accept all well-known brands of brake calipers. The bottom bracket is of the American style, fitting most major brands of one or three-piece cranks. Profile cranks fit, of course, and come in eight sizes ranging from 165mm to 195mm. The crank arms are made from 4130 chrome moly, and are finished off in chrome. They have a dish design manufactured into them which also reduces stress and flex. The spider comes in either



Left: Darren uses a Pro Neck stem, with Profile handlebars.

Above: The Squid!!!

Right: The Profile ... in all its glory.





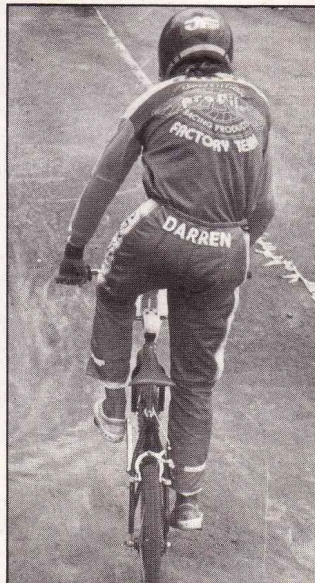
Shimano or Suntour pattern. The whole unit proved to be very rigid and the sealed bearings were silk smooth.

Probably the most predominant Profile rider in Australia is Darren May. We finally convinced Darren that we'd make him a star if he'd let us test his bike. (Well, thanks for letting us use your bike, Darren. We've made you a star, and it's on its way in the mail.)

Remembering that Profile only comes as a frame and fork, a lot of the components are accessory items. (Profile handlebars, cranks and seat posts are also available.)

The way Darren's bike was set up it was really neat. It felt a little tall at first, but after a few laps to get dialled in, the bike felt excellent. It's very stable, with predictable steering, and no bad habits. The Knarler Knobbies did their job and kept us from eating it too many times, while the dia-compe 890s stopped us real fast.

To appreciate the full Profile excellence, setting the bike up with best quality components is a must.



DARREN MAY

HOME TURF: Blackett, NSW.

SPONSOR: Profile Racing.

CO-SPONSOR: Invada.



VEHICLE:
Profile Bars.
Dia-Comp Brakes.
Profile Cranks.
Profile Forks.
Profile Frame.
Ame Tri Grips.

Shimano DX Pedals.
Elina Seat.
Knarler Knobby Tyres.
Chair 8000 Hubs.
Araya 7W Rims.

DIALIN' IN:
Emerton Cycles.

Darren lives in the western suburb of Blackett. He works with his father designing and manufacturing Invada products. Darren has been working on his own designs lately, and hopes to have them on the market soon. His hobbies include the obvious BMX, surfing, and his most favoured hobby and sport is girls. It was some of his ladies that christened him Squid — apparently a suitable nickname! Darren doesn't have too many dislikes, but his biggest bitch is about people who don't know how to run BMX (hmmm, sounds familiar). Darren's been riding BMX for about three years — docking up some impressive wins during that time. He has had experience riding in the USA, taking the number 8 plate B-Pro in the Murray World Cup. Closer to home, Darren currently holds the NSW open number 6 plate, and Australian 16 year open number 8 — won at Victoria last year. Further down his list is a 16 year open number 1 plate from the 1982 Mr BMX titles. At the Repco Hotfoot Summernationals, Darren won the Pro-Purse, riding against some top-notch American riders.

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