



RACE INC. RA-24

BMX business bike

By Dean Bradley Photos by Dean Bradley & John Ker



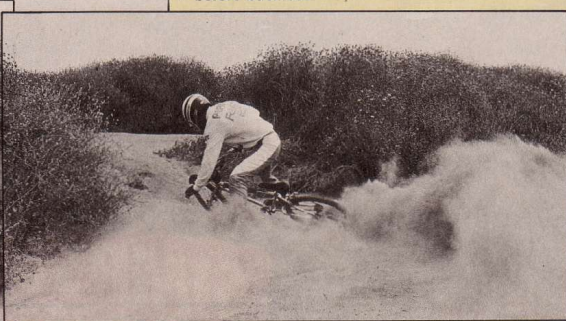
By the way Lundy was tossing our test bike around, we could have sworn he was riding a 20-incher rather than a full-sized 24. The RA-24 fits big, burly boys like a glove.

□ Have you ever wondered what it's like to ride a Pro's bike? A bucks-up, businesslike machine designed to dazzle the pit tootsies while winning every race in sight? Now, Pros are nice guys, but chances are, you'll never get a chance to ride one of their race-ready scoots. Don't despair, though, there is hope—Race Inc.'s RA-24, a new Pro-quality kit bike now available to the general public. That's right, buckos, the very same bike Race Inc.'s irrepressible Pro Mickey Lundy and seasoned (spicy?) vet Perry "P.K." Kramer have been cleaning house with on the National circuit this year.

CORPORATE INVESTMENT

So, what is a Pro bike, anyway? A

Let's not mince our words. We liked the RA-24. A lot. It's seldom that we find a hard-core race bike that can double as a mess-around playbike. Loony Lundy demonstrates his approach: *Pleasure before business.*



We had a gas flattracking the "racy" 24. Just sprint, pitch and slide. From there the big wheels, Comp III tires and race-bred geometry take over and make even Novices look like Pros.

RA-24



Flyboy Mickey Lundy is not afraid of heights. Then again, neither is the RA-24. Race Inc.'s trademark 6061 T-6 aluminum frame and 4130 chromoly fork are combined to come back down to earth as straight and true as they went up.

no-holds-barred, super-high-quality bike built to last, that's what. For many Pros, BMX is not a hobby; it's a living. Thus, each piece of competition equipment must be chosen for a variety of reasons. Price, however, is usually not one of them. This is all adding up to our telling you there are cheaper ways to go than a so-called "Pro kit." You should know immediately (if not sooner) that you should stop reading right now if you can't afford to spend over \$425, because the RA-24, in all its splendor, retails from between \$425 and \$450. Sorry, or congratulations, whichever the case may be.

TAKING STOCK

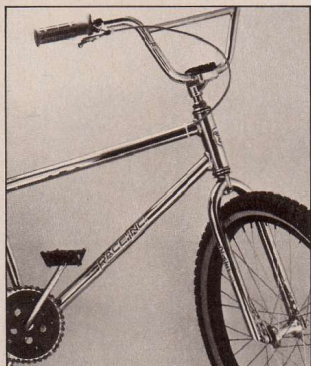
The RA-24 kit includes Race Inc.'s trademark 6061 T-6 aluminum "art work" frame, 4130 chromoly fork, bars, and seatpost, plus some of today's finest componentry.

Let's start with the ACS *gruppo*, including the precision ACS Stoker

hubs, dependable four-bolt stem, seatpost clamp and outstanding pedals. If you've never checked into ACS accessories, you're really missing out. Its current line features some of the best BMX equipment found anywhere in the world. And the best part is, it's made right here in the good ol' USA. Also included from the U.S. is a bulletproof Hadley sealed-bearing bottom bracket. The RA-24 headset comes from Japan's Tange-Seiki. You may or may not have already figured out that with all this precision bearing stuff, the RA-24 rolls like a dream. Bearing drag throughout the entire bike is at an absolute minimum. Vibration is nil. This baby is *smooth!*

LIGHT AND LIVELY

After assembly, the first thing you'll notice is that the RA-24 is light—very light. Race-ready with a full set of pads, plate and all the right stickers, it weighs in at 26-1/4 pounds. Let's just say that for a 24, that is very respectable, as that figure will embarrass a lot of chubby 20-inchers.



The RA-24 features tough Takagi cranks, Hadley bulletproof bottom bracket, Tange headset, Araya rims, Comp III tires and ACS stem, hubs and pedals. Yes, big-name components do make a big difference!

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RA-24



Lundy was riding along, then stuffed his shoe between the front tire and fork and flew over the bars into the weeds. "Hey, Mickey, that stuff sure looks a lot like poison oak to us!"

As you might imagine, handling on a 24 that light and with bearings that smooth can best be described as "lively." The RA flicks easily into turns, over jumps, up, down, wherever. Overall performance is definitely in the Pro category—very light, very responsive, very smooth—almost effortless. On the big RA you don't have to work as hard to go fast as you do on other 24s.

CORPORATE BENEFITS

Since many Pros get their bikes and equipment free, is this "Pro bike" too specialized, too high strung, and too expensive for a Novice? No. We'd recommend the RA-24 to any rider who appreciates the finer bikes in life. The RA is an investment that with a little tender loving care, just might last a lifetime. High quality does have its advantages, you know. You'll probably



Race Inc.'s Pro Cruiser ace Mickey Lundy throws the RA-24 into a classic to-the-stops tabletop. The big RA offers plenty of room to get up and dance.



BMX PLUS!

1. Bike: Race Inc. RA-24 Kit.
2. Age range: 12 years old and up.
3. Country of origin: USA (California).
4. Intended use: Racing.
5. Wheelbase: 39-3/4" to 41-1/4".
6. Bottom bracket height: 12-1/2".
7. Chain stay length: (C/L with 40" wheelbase) 17-1/4".
8. Steering head angle: 72°.
9. Seat tube angle: 71.5°.
10. Frame: Race Inc., 6061 T-6 aluminum, heli-arc welded, polished finish, 1-1/4" top tubes and downtubes, 3/4" rear stays, American bottom bracket, 5.0" head tube.
11. Fork: Race Inc., 4130 chromoly, heli-arc welded, chrome plated. Features: 1" tubular, leading-axle style legs.
12. Fims: Araya 7X, alloy, 24.0" x 1.75", 36-hole.
13. Spokes: 36/080, chrome plated.
14. Hubs: ACS Stoker, low-flange, alloy, retained-ear ball.
15. Tires: Mitsubishi Comp III skinwalls, 2.125" front, 1.75" rear, 35-40 psi.
16. Cranks: Takagi Cro-Mo, one-piece, 130mm.
17. Pedals: ACS, alloy cages with 1/2" chromoly shaft.
18. Chain: HKK 1/2" x 3/32" chrome.
19. Bottom bracket: Hadley, alloy, sealed bearing.
20. Front sprocket: Sugino 40T, alloy, quick-change with alloy power disc.
21. Freewheel: SunTour 18T.
22. Brakes: Dia-Compe MX-1000 caliper with Tech 3 lever, rear only.
23. Headset: Tange-Seiki MX-3 steel with SST Dirt Skirt.
24. Stem: ACS 4-bolt alloy clamp with chromoly shaft.
25. Handlebars: Race Inc., 4130 chromoly, 7.0" x 27-1/2".
26. Grips: Rad Grips, wire-on type.
27. Seating: Cycle Pro Shot Gun, plastic, aero-style, with Race Inc. 4130 chromoly post and ACS alloy clamp.
28. Miscellaneous: Full set of Johar California Lite safety pads, seat cover, Neal numberplate.
29. Overall weight: 26-1/2 lbs.
30. Approximate retail price: \$425 to \$450.
31. For additional information contact: Race Inc., 1632 W. 139th St., Gardena, CA 90249; 213-532-8790

need to throw a new set of tires on it every year or so, lube the chain, and maybe wipe it off; but other than that, the RA-24 should pretty much remain self-sufficient from season to season. Forget about the words "parts replacement" and "time-consuming maintenance." This is a Professional-quality bike designed for riding and racing, not for working on all the time.

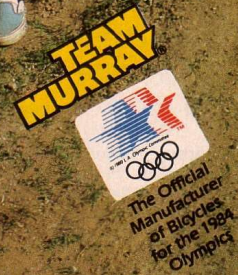
CLOSING THE DEAL

We like 24s and consequently get a chance to ride quite a few of them. But, after we spent a couple of months with the RA, we really didn't want to give it back. But we had to—they came and took it! If they hadn't, we'd still have it. We felt that for Race Inc.'s first shot at building a complete bike from the ground up, they succeeded in building a winner. No longer just a frame, fork, bars, seatpost deal, but a well-thought-out package that can and will win the Pro Open Wheel class, box stock. Now, if we could just get the bike back to prove it. . . . □

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