

SKYWAY

STRe e TBeAt © TEST

After school jobs were a dog. Danny-J knew it. Instead of the local newspaper drafting him into delivery service, his Maam had him manning the drive-thru window at a Burger King. Putting in extra hours. It was crap. Smoke, heat, grease, frozen meat, sweaty aprons... Dan was sure it'd give him zits. Maybe, if he was lucky, he'd be working the register this weekend. Maybe, it'd be the grill again. Nah. There must've been easier ways of saving up for a new bike, but he wanted a StreetBeat so badly, and Pop was such a tightwad. His dad choked when it came to giving money. Last year for his birthday, he'd given him a tie-rack and a matching pair of clip-on gas tanks for his Puch. Everybody'd laughed.

Anyway, that was all gonna change when he got his new bike. Right from the first day he'd gone into Joe's bikeshop on Maple Street and swung his leg over the seat of that white freestyle bike, he'd fallen in love with the thing. It had all the rad stuff. Especially the Skyway Spinmaster... no more tweaked cables on boomerangs. And the colour combos were the hottest ever — grey and white, blue and grey, green and white, and white and lavender. The only problem he'd have is trying to decide which one to choose. Roger and Dave were gonna freak at his new ride when he'd saved up another twenty quid. They wouldn't laugh then. Danny grinned at the thought.

It was 2.20. Dan was in the school library. There was the usual group of clean-cut, average bookworms trapped in the corner, studying for the test in fifth period or trying to research a topic for their semester finals, but he'd found a stray table near the window to read the Skyway catalogue. He was in awe. There was no wonder all the factory Skyway guys rode StreetBeats. Robert Peterson, Hugo Gonzales, Eddie Romain, Maurice Meyer, Scott Freeman (they were his idols). Skyway really took pride in what they produced. The StreetBeat reeked of quality. The teardrop shaped tubing, the brazed-on cable guides, a sealed bottom bracket and headset, a Sedisport chain, beefy frame gusseting, swedged fork legs for extra strength, and a built-in coaster brake bracket. Then there was the standing platform. The guy in Joe's shop said it was the easiest one to stand on by far. Nice and wide, but not in the way either.

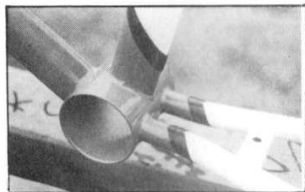
Danny read the info off the page and started to daydream. He was at the Park going up for a framewhip. The bike felt really good underneath him. Well-balanced and comfortable. It had really good geometry; the size was perfect for a guy Dan's age — 15. He tore down the path. The 43-16 gearing was a cinch to crank up. He pulled up into a coaster wheelie. Then slammed on the front brakes. The Skyway freestyle brake pads gripped the Tuff wheels as if they hadn't eaten for days. The Odyssey calipers and levers were a great choice — it was a pretty snappy move Skyway linking up with them. He flicked the back end round. The spinner was a must for anybody into flatland he thought to himself. But he'd have to pick up two pairs of axle pegs — that was about the only thing that didn't come standard on the StreetBeat. Anyway, there was MORE than enough room to climb around on it.

Then it was onto Rat's to try his hand at ramp riding. He was going up for a normal one-hander-one-footer. Yeah! There was practically zero flex. The shopowner had told him how stiff the bike would be with the teardrop shaping and the 4130 chrome-moly tubing. Now can-cans. Dave and Roger were in awe on the ground, cracking up. But they'd have to really bribe him to ride his new bike.



The Cottonpicker





"Hey, Dano . . . whatcha got there?" Danny looked round startled. "Ugh, you wha . . ." It was Roger. The librarian looked up from her card catalogue and issued a "SSSHH!" "Oh that, the StreetBeat flyer!" he whispered, beginning his interrogation. "So, what's it like then? You know, specs and stuff? I hear it's pretty cool?"

Danny-J nodded. The presence of all those Skyway logos all over the bike . . . stamped into the powerdisc, on the sides of the seat, and on the shim of the Spinmaster . . . made it totally custom looking. It even had 'em stamped onto the bottoms for the fork legs. And he was dug on the way the dropouts pulled out away from the fork legs so as to give the rider more room to stand when he put axle pegs on.

Roger sat down. From the ground up, you could tell these two were different . . . no little alligators, no high-priced jeans. He spotted the teardrop-shaped down tube and the creased teardrop-shaped top tube. "Hey, trick. What's those for?" (Roger was crap at metal work and engineering and stuff; what could be so difficult about making candle-holders? You'd think it was a class designed for stupid people, yet the smarter guys also seemed to flunk). Dan told him that teardrop increased the weld area at the juncture points and improved the rigidity of the frame. Without the crease in the toptube the standing platform wouldn't be flat.

"And it's got EZ-bars, too?" Roger replied. "Yeah, nine inches tall. They feel killer, and the twin crossbars double up as a couch you can put to good use." Dan knew his stuff. He'd poured over enough Skyway ads now to rhyme off everything. "And there's nothing fake on it — right down to the A me grips. It rips. I mean, check out this." He pointed to the picture. "Look how the rear brakes are mounted upside down so you don't squish your cable when you do framestands. Pretty clever, huh? And Skyway's own 20x1.9 freestyle tyres were on both wheels." Roger was in awe. "Bitchen, so how much is it?"

"Well, the man in the shop said he'll let me take the frame and forks out for £200 or the complete bike with the Skyway specs at four-fifty. In any one of the four finishes available . . ."

Dan thought about the money again, then shook his head. He was teetering on the brink of lunacy. He just needed twenty quid to get his new bike. But that was three weeks work at Burger King. It might as well have been a hundred and twenty because it would take forever.

He put the catalogue back into his bag on top of a couple of back issues of FREESTYLE BMX — he would need those to make it through the long day ahead of him. Tonight he'd have to work the drive-thru. Ugh. He didn't want to see fast food ever again.

It was about 5.30 when Danny got to work. He'd walked two blocks out of his way to shuffle past Joe's bikeshop and look at the StreetBeat in the window again. The green and white one he'd seen Saturday — that was the colour he thought o' getting . . . But nahhh, it'd gone; some guy had bought it that afternoon. "Crap," Danny said.

He jogged into the Burger King, still swearing under his breath. How could it have happened? He knew there would be more bikes, but that one was the scooter he wanted. That one. He didn't even notice no one was in the restaurant.

Just then Mr Tokey, the owner, ran through the kitchen door and bumped into Danny in the corridor.

"Ah Danny-J . . . I'm sorry, but we've had to close the drive-in today. We've got a leak in the kitchen . . . all the grills are fused and the burgers are soup. It's in a real mess. Have the night off, okay."

"Alright," he mumbled, "thanks."

The journey home took ages. The bus was packed. Danny had to stand all the way. It was 6 o'clock before he finally got home. But he didn't care if it wasn't ever. He put his key in the hole and turned the latch . . . The second he walked through the door, everyone in the room stopped talking and stared at him. "Oh no, Maam had found out who snagged the apple pie from the kitchen this morning." But she was smiling. And where was Pop?

Darr, darr. Right on cue, Dad wheeled the bike into the living room.

"No way . . . Jee, A STREETBEAT!" Danny couldn't believe his eyes. He was too stoked to say anything. "And a GREEN AND WHITE one! Cool!"

No more after-school jobs for Danny-J. Tomorrow he'd be better spending his time freestyling his new scooter. In the Park or Rat's ramp? And he'd have to show Dave and Roger. Yeah!

Great story. But let's just offer a recap for a minute. Because as we were putting the final pages together for this magazine, we learnt the complete StreetBeat bike wasn't gonna be available over here. Lame. Just the Streetstyer (complete bike) £283.00, frame and forks £148.00 retail.

Eventhough, the one we were sent was built up to Skyway spec's, Shiner aren't gonna pump it out as a complete unit. They're just gonna sell all the Skyway parts seperately.

"Course if you want the real McCoy (like the factory riders Scotty Freeman, Carlo and Craig), you'll build the frame and forks up to Skyway specs anyway. For starters, if you're looking at the Street Beat — a top notch shredder — you're pretty serious about your riding . . . Therefore the specifications at the end are the ones for the complete bike. Hope that's okay as some form of explanation.

STREETBEAT SPECIFICATIONS

PRICE & STUFF

COMPLETE BIKE PRICE: N/A (as tested)
FRAME/FORKS PRICE: £200.00
COMPLETE BIKE WEIGHT: 27 pounds, 4 ounces (as tested)
FRAME WEIGHT: 5 pounds, 10 ounces
FORK WEIGHT: 1 pound, 14 ounces
STEERING HEAD TUBE LENGTH: 4 inches
HANDLEBAR RISE: 9 inches
HANDLEBAR WIDTH: 27 1/2 inches
SEAT TUBE ANGLE: 71 degrees
STEERING HEAD ANGLE: 73 degrees
BOTTOM BRACKET HEIGHT: 12 inches
TOP TUBE O.D.: Teardrop
DOWN TUBE O.D.: Teardrop
FORK LEG O.D.: Tapered

COMPONENTS

FRAME: Skyway StreetBeat, 4130 chrome-moly
FORK: Skyway StreetBeat, 4130 chrome-moly
HANDLEBAR: Skyway E-Z Bar, 4130 chrome-moly
HANDLEBAR STEM: Skyway, aluminium and chrome-moly
GRIPS: A me rubber
HEADSET: Sealed bearing
WHEELS: Skyway Tuff Wheel II, zytel nylon
TYRES: Skyway 20 x 1.9
ROTOR THING: Skyway Spinmaster
BRAKES: Odyssey
BRAKE LEVERS: Odyssey
BRAKE CABLES: Odyssey
PEDALS: Alloy platform type
CRANK: SR Turbox, 4130 chrome-moly
BOTTOM BRACKET SET: Sealed bearing
SPIDER: Skyway
FRONT SPROCKET: Skyway, 13 tooth, aluminium
REAR SPROCKET: SunTour, 16 tooth
CHAIN: Sedis Sport, 3/32 inch
SEAT: Skyway Freestyle saddle
SEAT POST: Lay-back, 4130 chrome-moly
SEAT POST CLAMP: Odyssey

SO WHAT'D WE THINK?

QUALITY OF FINISH: Brilliant
QUALITY OF WELDING: Way good
QUALITY OF COMPONENTS: Rolls Royce
ASSORTED CONTRIBUTIONS: "Now I know what I want for Christmas, four colour combos to choose from, brazed-on cable guides, HUGE standing platform, heat-treated fork and dropouts. And the best part about it is the price — puh-leez Santa . . ." "The graphics look killer . . ." "Works good for ramp, street, ground, and any other riding you'll be doing . . ." "Transportation, heaving sessioning, you name it . . ." "The standing platform is easy to get on with. Nice and wide, but it doesn't get in your way either . . ." "The rigidity in the frame is definitely up to the mark. No flex at all. It feels really good underneath you . . ." "Odyssey brakes are cool — it's really trick Skyway have teamed up with them . . ." "The Spinmaster is a definite must for ground riders . . ." "The specs are qual — Tuff II's, E-Z bars, Odyssey brakes and Skyway freestyle tyres — Skyway have really put a lot of thought into producing this. No wonder all the factory Skyway guys ride StreetBeats . . ." "Those tyres are bitchen. The 20 x 1.9 jobbies. They look really skinny, but they're easy to adapt to . . ." "Small details like the teardrop tubing, swedge fork legs, cable guides and coaster brake bracket show that Skyway really takes pride in what they're doin'."

TEST FOLK: Carlo, Mike Canning, Peter Hawkins, N.J., Mike, Chris Allen, and a zillion others.

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