



Instead, you can save yourself an awful lot of grief and hard graft by perusing any number of aftermarket parts and accessories catalogues available today, and selecting a variety of components that complement each other in the same way that truly one-off parts can do. By giving careful thought to your parts list and having an eye to what items work well with others, it's perfectly possible to make a motorcycle into a cohesive whole that's every bit as unique as any scratch-built custom bike can be. And anyway, let's face it, if you're mixing products from a number of suppliers, it's a fair bet that you're going to have to resort to the drill and grinder at some point down the line.

The search for individuality and (once discovered) the impulse to display it isn't unique to bike-builders. It's something that's shared with fans of body art, too, and they'll be the first to appreciate a tenet which applies equally to custom bikes – that you don't have to go the whole (sic) hog with a full body suit, flesh tunnels, scarification and a lip plate to show that you're different to everyone else. A Celtic band and a couple of subtle piercings is often all you need to truly differentiate yourself from the rest of humanity. Comparisons between custom biking and the tattoo/piercing world aren't original, nor will they come as a surprise to anyone from either communities, but I've made them for a reason, and that reason is this Harley.

This 'Biogenesis' Fat Boy is owned by Alan Hale, a gentleman who is fully aware of the similarities between the custom biking world and the custom person world, because, as well as a passion for bikes, he also runs the Alzone tattoo and body piercing studio in Eastgate Street, Gloucester (www.alzonetattoos.com). If you're interested in tattooing, or have read reviews of events, you will already be familiar with Alan's name from his frequent appearances in the lists of award-winning artists. While Alan is more than capable of designing and applying his own designs onto skin, the paint scheme for his H-D was inspired by his favourite American tattoo artist,

