



For all you folk who think that a bike comprising 'just' bolt-on parts will never qualify as a true custom bike, and who'll rant and rave if everything's not hand-built, then it pays to remember that not everyone has a lathe, milling machine, compressor and TIG welder in their shed. More importantly, the vast majority of us wouldn't be able to use that equipment even if we owned it. Even those who can use a welder or are prepared to make their own parts, time can often be the worst enemy. As anyone who runs their own business will tell you, that leaves time for little else, and you don't build a successful tattoo business like Alzone by having loads of spare time on your hands. So, to those who haven't the requisite skills or can't afford the hours, take a look at this Harley and – as tattooists through the ages have done with every sort of image – use it as inspiration.

Specifications

make/model: 1993 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy.

engine: Stock 1340cc Evolution, H-D slash-cut exhausts, ribbed oil pump cover, Custom Chrome slotted shift linkage, H-D chrome rotor cover.

frames: Stock 1993 H-D Fat Boy, W&W chrome frame inserts, Doss underseat chrome frame covers.

front: White Bros 38" beach bars, Custom Chrome fork sliders, Fat Boy wheel, Scorpion discs, Arlen Ness master cylinder & grips, Corbin ducktail mudguard, Ness billet mirrors with inbuilt indicators.

rear: H-D Fat Boy wheel, Pro-One billet rear footpegs, 70-tooth belt sprocket.

stuff: Le Pera King Cobra seat, Rick Doss swingarm & axle covers, Pro-One billet footboards & brake pedal cover, Rick Doss full-length dash cover, KaryAkyn Air Dam tool box, Rick Doss ribbed side panels, braided brake & clutch lines.

electric: Custom Chrome switchgear, NessTech rectifier, Custom Chrome Arrowhead taillight, Rick Doss chrome rear indicator & marker lights, wiring by Rev & owner.

paint & plating: Born To Be Wild, Tewkesbury (01684 291616).

polishing/plating: Polished headlights & fork slider tinware, plating on upper & lower belt guards, rear master cylinder cover, gearshift control cover, front axle caps, petrol tap, choke & spark plug covers.

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alzone tattoo & body piercing studio

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Situated in the centre of Gloucester, Alzone Tattoo & Body Piercing Studio moved into its new and clinically clean premises in 2000. However, Alan Hale had already built himself a solid reputation for his tattoo work in the area over the previous six years. Like most artists, he began by designing tattoos for friends. But, while many people never take that interest any further, Alan decided to use his talents seriously, and undertook a formal apprenticeship with local tattoo artist, Gary Whitman. Several years down the line that training would lead to Alan opening the first incarnation of Alzone in premises that rapidly proved not only unsuitable but too small to accommodate the amount of work being generated by his reputation as an artist. In 1999 Alan began to work at some of the national conventions, swiftly winning three top awards in a row. After a sojourn as guest artist at a tattoo studio in Cyprus (it's a hard life!), Alan returned to Gloucester to open the newly refurbished premises that are Alzone's current home. Those premises are shared with two other tattoo artists, including the far-too-beautiful and impossibly young Amanda, and offers body-piercing as well as skin art. Although happy to do traditional tattoos, Alzone specialises in Celtic, tribal and Oriental work from a vast flash library of some 10,000 designs, as well as undertaking one-off custom pieces for customers. Not surprisingly, due to the studio's workload, you have to book an appointment these days; the shop is open from 10am from Monday to Saturday, although it's closed on Wednesday, which is probably about the only time Al gets to play with his Harley?

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