
Blame the Internet

David Hamilton

I had a perfectly good and well-sorted out GS/DMC rig. But the rig did not excite me in terms of design and complexity. The internet is a wonderful place to daydream, and it was not long before I found what would excite me.

A few exchanges with Rainer Rothweiler (at Ruko) convinced me that I had found what I was looking for.

The easiest way to build a rig is to purchase a motorcycle in Germany and deliver it to Ruko. Not so fast. The EU motorcycle will not be allowed in the USA. I was able to buy a USA approved BMW R1200RS from the local dealer, BMW of Ventura, California.

After some research, air freight was chosen. Yes the actual freight charge is more, but by the time you factor in handling and port charges, air freight is about the same as ocean freight, and of course quicker.

I was able to visit Rainer and Ruko, when the rig was in the early stages of the build. To see your rig being created and seeing care and time that goes into a build is most impressive. Rainer's crew added to my confidence that I had made a good decision in having Ruko build the sidecar.

When completed and TUV certified, it was ready to come home. After arriving in Los Angeles and completing customs clearance, a very large box was delivered to the house. Unpacking was very straight forward; all the box sides were fastened with torq screws, very well thought out.



Once the rig was rolled out of the box, fuel added and battery hooked up, it was time for the first ride.

Rainer had warned me that this rig would be much more responsive than my previous rig.

Wow.

So responsive and very confidence inspiring. Wide tires and low center of mass allow much more exuberant cornering.

"I'm a happy camper."



Photos by David