

# The Thunderbird Bobber

Words and photos: Grizzly

**T**heun is a gold and silver smith from Holland, Europe, who also happens to like bikes and especially Harleys. He has owned several hogs but until now never built one from the ground up. Since he is also crazy about lotsa things

American and the fifties, he decided his first homebuilt bike should be a Bobber.

Theun's home looks like a mini-museum of the fifties. In one corner of his living room you will find a multi-colored fifties jukebox displayed together with a chrome Buddy Holly microphone. In the other corner a rusty Castrol fuel pump stands reminding you of days gone by.

He owns an abundance of nostalgic toys and his walls are decorated with neon signs typical for the period. His kitchen floor is checkered in black and white, the whole thing looks like a scene from the TV series Happy Days. I even noticed a poster from the Fonz somewhere. Theun loves the fifties, the music, the atmosphere, everything.

The silversmith even became known all over Biker-Holland for turning the image of our queen on old silver coins into the image of Elvis. He also made a silver miniature of the beer drinking guy that was photographed during the well known Hollister incident.

Considering all of this it is obvious Theun wanted the bike he would build himself to be a fifties Bobber.

Building a Bobber can be done in many ways. You can build an authentic Bobber with only parts that were available in the fifties but you can also just as well build one that looks like it's from the fifties but still has lots of 'modern' parts on it. Looking at a Bobber you should get the "feel" of the fifties, which is the only thing important.

Theun wanted to use a Shovelhead engine for instance. In the eyes of Twincam owners, or of people that arc not into Harleys,

