

that particular engine already looks prehistoric. So even as it is a dependable, strong and fairly new engine for most people it will still do the job of giving the bike a classic look.

A cheap aftermarket hardtail frame was bought together with an old Springer front end and handlebars from a forty-five Flathead. Theun scored a rear wheel with hydraulic drum brake somewhere and used a 21 inch front wheel that stops thanks to a WLC mechanical drum brake. With these parts he had enough to create a typical Bobber silhouette but that is easier said than done!

The jewelry-maker did not know whether he would be able to build a complete bike from the ground up. Okay, he had owned and mildly bobbed a BSA twenty years before and his current Evo Softail, with fifties nose-art on the gas tank, was modified a bit to accept a Cadillac taillight but building an entire bike would be something completely different. He desperately needed help and the help came in the form of his buddy Dirk.

Dirk is a handy guy who can build or fabricate almost anything. Now Theun could start his project. From that day on, the two Dutch guys could be found in the barn every night after work.

They bobbed a stylish front fender with cool classic fender tips off an Army Flathead and turned it around so it could be fitted as a rear fender. Two simple handmade struts hold the fender and the chain guard in place.

They extended the Springer front end one inch so the frame would sit level to the ground. The seat is a medium sized solo seat that is very comfy and really goes well with the fat Harley gas tanks. Brackets were made to hold the tanks. A fifties Thunderbird logo was duplicated to adorn the sides. The Thunderbird logo could be previously found on old Bomber planes and Theun uses the logo also for his company, Theunderbird Jewelry.

The license plate holder is something else. By a simple twist of the thumb it can be flipped over. It will then show a fifties pin-up with the words 'hasta la vista baby' instead of the obligatory license plate. The plate holder also holds a good looking classic taillight.

The forward controls on this machine are partly homemade and powder coated in black. The same goes for many other parts. The black powder coating definitely helps obtaining a classic bobber look.

The fun part about creating a Bobber is searching for small things that will give the bike that little bit of Xtra. Details like the Hollister coin that commemorates the Hollister incident of 1947. Theun incorporated the coin into the top of his Springer frontend.

Details like the black and white checkers on the sheet metal but also on the leather

Theunderbird Bobber

