



Fritz's "Margarita Chiquita"

Panhead Chopper

Words: Alan Mayes, Photos: Michael Bloomberg

Fritz Schenck is a gearhead's gearhead. Choppers, hot rods, customs... you name it, Fritz has designed them, built them, painted them. And speaking of paint, he has been named a House of Kolor "Prestigious Painter" the past two years in a row. Put that into perspective. How many top painters do you think there are using House of Kolor paint? Yes, lots. And then some. That award is a big deal.

You may recall that we ran a story on Fritz's replica of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth's "Outlaw" show rod in *Car Kulture DeLuxe* issue # 37. We also featured his restoration of Roth's "Mega Cycle" in *Ol' Skool Rodz* issue #39. There will be more features on Fritz's vehicles as time goes on. We like the quality of his work and we like his taste in cars and motorcycles.

Fritz and his wife and business partner, Carol, live in Belton, Missouri, just outside Kansas City. They moved their shop, Spritz by Fritz, a cou-



ple of years ago from New York. The centralized location has offered the opportunity to tour the custom car and bike circuit, showing off Fritz's work, including the Roth-inspired "Roswell Rod" and this chopper, "Margarita Chiquita."

Fritz has owned the bike since 1988 and it is a great showcase for his multitude of skills. It started life as a 1960 Harley 74 Panhead. This lime green and multi-colored flamed version is the second incarnation. The first time around, it was purple with flames. In both versions, it has been a multiple show winner and Fritz has a stack of trophies to prove it.

This is an old style chopper in the strictest sense of the term, with lots of hand-crafted custom features such as a spider web exhaust heat shield and matching sissy bar. There's mile-high exhaust running up parallel to the sissy bar. A handbuilt hand shifter on the left side pivots on the upper motor mount. A bloody eyeball shift knob sits atop that. The clutch pedal, grips and seat are all old school white, just like they would have been back when. The front end is a gen-yoo-wine Harley springer, slathered in chrome. Some of the work was done with a hand from the late Indian Larry. He and Fritz were friends and they collaborated on some Discovery Channel projects.

Like all of Fritz's builds, whether two-wheeled or four, this baby is detailed to the max. The frame molding is perfect, even where no one would ever notice a bobble. Likewise, the molding on the fender and taillight. The underside of the Frisco-style tank is as nicely finished as the top. The edges of the flames are crisp and clean, even down low on the frame, under the engine where someone would have lie flat on his belly to look. Every wire and hose is routed and secured so that it will never rub the paint or get rubbed through to cause a short or leak problem. The wheels' twisted spokes sparkle like jewels.

There it is - a sweet old school chopper, Fritz Schenck style. It doesn't get any better. 🍹

Resource:

Spritz by Fritz
www.spritzbyfritz.com
816-322-2205