

Motorized Bicycle

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Visionary: Well not really.

What is it?

This is one I built and currently use. It has a 48cc two-stroke engine kit.



It's a standard bicycle with an engine.

What type of bicycle?

Any beach cruiser or even mountain bike will do as long as the tubes are not too big. This one is from www.bikebuyers.com for \$259.99.



Average build time?

- The average build takes about 5 to 6 hours. It will take longer if your mechanical prowess is a little rusty.
- You can buy these bikes completely assembled from distributors like Spooky Tooth Cycles.
- The most difficult part to build the bike is putting the sprocket on the rear wheel. The sprocket is sandwiched on top of the spokes and back plated by 1" of reinforced rubber (old tire) and semi-circular plates.
- I highly recommend using Loctite® on all screws.



Why?

- Personal Reasons

- Reduced commute time because of my close proximity and I don't have to park and walk or wait for the bus. I live 2.5 miles away but get to work 10 minutes faster if I use my motorized bicycle.
- Reduction in stress is a big reason why I commute this way. I don't feel boxed in as I do when I drive. I enjoy experiencing the weather rather than observing it. I lived two years in a rainforest in Alaska and the locals refer to rain as "liquid sunshine". Though some days when it is raining hard I drive because of safety reasons.
- It's fun. I love seeing the smiles on peoples faces, their "thumbs up" signs, or just their overall look of disbelief.
- **Caution heavy reading ahead.** Independence. I enjoy the book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values* by Robert M. Pirsig. The author postulates that truth may be found by rational thought but it may not be "true" in all experiences. I feel the more we step outside our box the more applicable our idea of "truth" will be. Our idea of life and the world around us becomes more real. We build ourselves a better quality of life by changing the angle of our experiences. I don't have complete reliance on anyone else but myself to keep my motorized bicycle running. **End of Caution Zone.**

Why?

- Other Reasons

- It gets 100 to 150 miles per gallon of gasoline.
- It meets EPA emission standards for small engines and has a catalytic converter in the muffler.
- A two stroke 48cc, 1.95hp gasoline engine kits cost \$125. A comparable electric engine would cost \$350 to \$700. (746watts = 1hp).
- The preferred bikes to mount the engine kit are cheap. The \$90 beach cruiser at Wal-Mart is perfect. It is preferred to have a bike with a heavy duty steel tube frame, which is smaller in diameter than the oversized tubes used in higher end bikes for weight reduction.
- This is direct quote from the North Carolina Department of Transportation website: "You must be age 16 or older to operate a moped on North Carolina highways or public vehicular areas. A driver's license is not required, and the moped does not have to be registered, inspected or covered by liability insurance. A motorcycle safety helmet is required by law when operating a moped on North Carolina highways. A moped cannot have a motor of more than 50 cubic centimeters, an external shifting device or have the capability of exceeding 30 miles per hour on a level surface."

Another bike I built.

Another 48cc engine kit
I bought off of Ebay for
\$125.



Total Cost- \$325

Motorized Bike History

- There used to be a company in the US named Whizzer that sold engine kits to be mounted on bikes starting in 1939. They went into obscurity in 1955 and began building other products. In 1998 they began building the motorized bicycle again, but not the engine kit. They truly look like fun machines.
- This one would need to be registered as a motorcycle because it's engine is 138cc. It goes 25mph and gets 110 miles per gallon.
- www.whizzermotorbike.com



This is the other Whizzer.

- This one has a top speed of 40mph and gets 90 miles per gallon, but alas no pedals.

This one sells for \$1995.00



Thanks! Go Duke!!!

I'm holding an adolescent female bald eagle in Ketchikan, Alaska. A symbol of our freedom as a nation and a reminder of our responsibility to preserve its beauty. This raptor is 8lbs. They get up to 12lbs. I was helping the Federally Licensed Master Falconer with training.

