



Custom Chrome Europe GmbH

Carl-von-Ossietzky-Strasse 8 D-55459 Grolsheim Phone: +49 (0) 6721 - 4 007 - 0

Fax: +49 (0) 6721 - 4 007 - 100 e-mail: info@customchrome.de www.custom-chrome-europe.com

CCE SPECIAL FEATURE 2016

UNCOVERED: The private Rides & Custom Projects of the CCE Staff!

It might not be a surprising fact, but working for Europe's biggest custom parts distributor has always been a passionate affair" for all employees who signed in at either Bad Kreuznach or todays Grolsheim facility. The passion for riding and customizing is shared by a surprising number of CCE's staff members throughout all departments, most of which – of course – favour the American made V-Twins, but also ride other brands and a huge variety of styles. And if you think the list is complete, think again – we just didn't have the images on all CC-Riders" yet!

There is no doubt when Carsten Behrens, CCE's Corporate Design Manager" is arriving for work: The rumble from the open exhaust pipes of his home-built Chopper or his latest addition to his garage, a handcrafted bare-metal style Bobber, can be heard from quite a distance as he approaches the Grolsheim warehouse over the plain where the Nahe river slowly meanders towards the Father Rhine". Questions for his run-in's with the local forces of the law are brushed off - so far he got away with his Loud pipes save lives" attitude - and by the sound of his bikes, he has saved many lives! If there is one thing that makes him stand out" from all other CCE employees, it is the fact that he moves every single part of CCE massive catalogue at least once every year! Fortunate for him, he doesn't have to drag the parts out of the shelves at the warehouse. The index finger pushes the "mouse" and moves the image of the part from one position to another. Sounds easy? Multiply that with 30.000 parts, a lot of them pictured in the catalog and five languages - as texts that vary in lenght in the five available languages - and you may see the work. Carsten Behrens is layouting CCE's 1.548 pages cataloge, almost new from scratch every year, his time on the road" is limited anyway, but he takes great pride in having



Jaime Sagrado and his rigid Shovelhead Street Dragster!

assembled his bikes himself in his home garage, as the marketing department of CCE dictates – in his free time during summer and autumn, when there is time to take a breath between Summer and Winter-updates and the next 5-language edition of the catalogue waiting. And with a close eye on the almost 5.000 new products he has to integrate into the pages every year, there is little doubt that he is already breeding" over ideas for his next garage-build project.

9 9 9

CCE's Sales Department literally breeds" the riders for the "Bolt On and Ride" filming and fotoshoots, because most of its members (if not all) ride or build their own bikes. Helmut Sekowski modified his 2000 Dyna Glide Sport with numerous CCE parts. There are probably few German or international dealers that haven't talked to Lothar Foerst on the telephone – he is a member of the CCE staff since the year 2000 and fills in every position he was asked to perform: Foto-model, testrider for the Bolt on and Ride" shootings and even the escaped prisoner" in CCE's The

Great Escape" advertising campaign. With outstanding excellence, to say the least, not to forget his heavy metal guitar skills that came helpful in the 2014 Sexy Thing" video music clip! Equally skilled at his day job" as Sales Representative, Lothar is still riding his 88 Cubic Inch RevTech powered Chopper he built himself from 2000 to 2004 and rebuilt it again in 2011/12 for a more modern look. This experience always comes handy when talking to the dealers on the phone, because Lothar knows exactly from his own experience where the nuts and bolts go, so to speak! I have a cool job and a lot of really cool customers", says Lothar – and working so close to where his interests are is adding to his enthusiasm for the job.

9 9 9

He shares the passion and the room with Sigrid Kuhn-Fuchs, who was interested in Custombikes from the age of seven and even had her kids travelling with her in several sidecar-equipped bikes through Holland and Germany. As Sales Rep for Germany and Switzerland, she is serving two of the most important Harley-Davidson and Custombike markets, the 26% market share for Harleys is one of the biggest outside the USA. She worked for a Koblenz-based Customizing shop since 1991 and has experienced to boom-times and changes in the model-lines first hand: Raven" has been her idea and project for a long time and was realized in co-operation with Maniac MeachaniX" Christian Denstedt.

• • • •

The enthusiasm is shared by their boss", Sales Director Marc Strieffler, who customized himself a Shovelhead "Bobber" in 2009 and is now finishing a Sportster for the 2016 riding season that is very much inspired by the Independent Choppers built Custom Cross" from the 2013 Bolt On and Ride" bikes line-up. Which Marc rode all through South France and also in the German Nahetal" area: He then aquired the neccessary components and assembled the bike in his garage. With a heritage of owning Kawasaki and Honda motorcycles, followed by Harley-Davidson Softails, Dyna, Shovelheads and the new Sportster, Marc is also fully aware of the available CCE parts for these models – and he is usually on the team"

when it comes to riding the Bolt On and Ride" motorcycles for photographing and filming. "Being head of the sales department is not just a desk job at Custom Chrome Europe", Marc states, you have to be prepared for anything anytime! Currently we are pushing the CCE Dealer Store website with very good results – but it always helps when you also know how to handle wrench and screwdriver to mount the parts yourself..."

2 2 2

Two motorheads" that sure know in which direction to turn the screwdriver are sitting in the Customer Service" " and Product Management" department, responsible for new parts that will enter future CCE catalogues: Mirco Buschmann-Adam and Christian Denstedt are the men in charge when it comes to evaluate new parts - and both of them have a tough job to check, test and judge hundreds of new items which come from an incredible variety of sources. approved or not? What's the manufacturing quali-ty? Will the part sell all over Europe or just in particular markets? Considerations that also bear the responsibility for the production badge size that has to be ordered from the manufacturer, when the initial order has to be made as the part is introduced first into the webshop, followed by catalogue updates and/or the catalogue itself. Without question one of the most sensitive and important jobs any distributor has to fill - and CCE's history of success underlines that they always had the right people working in this position. Riding motorcycles since 1994, Mirco has an extensive motorcycle history with a BMW R25-3, HD's FXEF (the Fat Bob Super Glide), HD Sportsters, HD Street Bob and his latest ride: a 750 "Street", already modified with CCE parts. Since Mirco worked with the factory", his knowledge is well received by authorised and independent Harley-dealers alike. His only sorrow is that the job leaves so little time to ride! His partner in business has no such qualms: Part-time running his own customizing shop Maniac Mechanix", he usually rides winter and summer from Gensingen, less than 4 km from the Grolsheim warehouse. Multitasking workloads at CCE do include the parts assessment and homologating and maintenance of the Bolt On and Ride" bikes. He has also created several BOAR" bikes and CCE customs himself in the last years, his powerful, 125 RevTech powered Evel King" Bagger was able to reach top-speeds byond the 200 km/h mark, but nobody ever had the guts to test how fast it could really go!

2 2 3

One of the CCE staffers who was there at the creation" of CCE is Guenther Mueller, Director of Purchasing" and thus one of the most important staff members, yet one of the least visible. Which comes with the location of his office and the fact hat his spectacular custombike "Sin Vergüenza" is still used as an eyecatching attraction at Hell's Kitchen Choppers" when they exhibit. Mueller has close family ties with the Lake Constance (German: Bodensee Region), which results that he is making his kilometers outside the view of CCE's colleagues and the ever-present cameras.

2 2 2

As to be expected, all CCE international Sales Representatives Andy Tozer (United Kingdom), Marcel Masaryk (Eastern Europe), Jaime Sagrado (Iberia), Geraldine Rietzler, Pascal Barry (France) and Ivano Segato (Italy) own customized Harley-Davidsons and ride them. Most of them in fine and fair weather conditions far superiour to Germany, probably with the exception of Andy Tozer who lives near Dover/England. Sorry Andy, but the 2012 - and never published - Bolt On and Ride" tour to Poole and Beaulieau is forever edged in CCE's annals. Waterboarding" the CCE team through South England did proove that the BOAR bikes, as well as the CC-Riders, can endure rain and beating on a long term base: When we arrived in the UK, water shortages" were declared, when we left 6 days later, "catastophic flooding" was the news all over England! Who want a BOAR" tour for his country? Sponsors welcome! All CCE Sales Reps know what they are talking about when selling parts - and the dealers often enjoy to see them arriving on their own two wheels - be it at shows or at their shop.

· • •

Last, but certainly not least, CCE Managing Director Andreas Scholz is the Leader of the Pack" when it comes to private riding. Not that his day job" would allow much





TOP: Carsten Behrens first private-built "Tobago" Kitbike. The days before GoPro" were quite an adventure when filming with "Studio 1".

of it, but his office is located on the top floor of the new CCE warehouse, direction sunrise – and to the main roads passing Grolsheim. From there, he not just has a view on who is entering the CCE facility but also to the horizon: It is still a dream come true for me to work in this wonderful team for and in this exciting, international industry. Motorcycles in general and Harley-custom-bikes in particular have always been my passion since I was allowed to ride them", he states. But there usually is little time to enjoy a good ride, even though the Bolt On and Ride"



The garage of East European Sales Rep Marcel Masaryk hosts several bikes...



bikes are always at his disposal. You have to look twice to identify Scholz on the private shot of 1989 which pictures him while crossing the USA on a Evolution Harley, but suit and tie only apply to him when the dress code" is asking for it and the calendar shows dates with bankers, state officials or his superiours, which usually give him a "carte blanche", thanks to the excellent performance of CCE in a very difficult time for the custombike market. The "CC-Riders" are a definite part of Custom Chrome Europe's continuing success story, since they fuel" their job with more passion and enthusiasm – and the fact that a greater number of CCE staffers are CC-Riders", not all portrayed here, makes Custom Chrome Europe such an outstanding performer in the business.

. . .

However, one last question may burn in everybodys mind when looking at the images: Do they ever ride together? For years, that question has never been raised, probably because everybody, even subconsciesly, knew the answer would open memories: Despite riding together for all types of events, photographing and filming, no picture ever existed of all CC-Riders together. Discounting the problems of getting everybody, including the international Sales Reps, together in winter time for just one image, there is a history that obviously has not been forgotten by the long-time riding members of the CCE staff. Only once, in the August of 2010, a private motorcycle tour of all riding staff members from Bad Kreuznach to the Odenwald Fo-



Italian Sales Rep Ivano Segato in the 21st century (left) and even earlyer! Italian kids can still grow up on motorcycles!

rest east of the Rhine was envisioned and planned. Shortly before the ride took place, then CCE Sales Assistant Heike Gelso crashed deadly with her motorcycle, probably practising her riding skills for the upcoming tour, but nobody knows for sure. Naturally, the tour was cancelled and ever since, much in respect for her, the question was never raised again – and may never be.

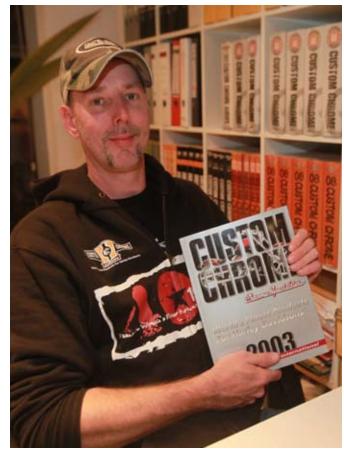
But even without Group Shot" – the legacy of the CC-Riders is visible: In the daily business each of them performs on his day job for Custom Chrome Europe. The impression is clear and lasting: These guys ride what they sell – and they know business! Well – see for yourself and check them out: The bikes of the CC-Riders...

To be continued...?

Images: Various sources, including the CC-Riders Blue Miller, Eric Forlay and others. Thanks to everybody for their efforts.









Carsten Behrens, Corporate Design Manager

His garage space is tight – and sometimes he has to sell one of his homebuild" bikes to get space for something new. A problem he shares with other Custom Chrome Europe employees. Knowing the CCE catalogue like no other – including the new parts before the pages go to print – has its benefits. Carsten Behrens is "Mr. Catalogue" at CCE's Marketing department and also responsible for what is today's Corporate Design": The "look" of everything that defines CCE's "visual identity", ranging from as little as the CCE Logo to the colours used in erecting the huge warehouse at Grolsheim near











Bingen. A lot of work – and a lot of time spent in front of computer screens for the graduated designer. And there is always somebody at CCE who needs another business card, advertisement or logo. Never ever ask him about the ever-present logo-changing-craze! Which inevetably happens shortly before the catalog goes to print:-)

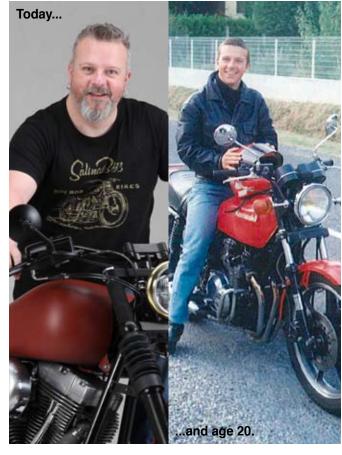
Carsten's other passions are tennis and fast cars – and following the winter season when long hours are spent on the catalogue production, he usually looks forward to be back in the saddle" of his Chopper – or his newly created bare metal" Frisco Style Bobber he built in his garage for several months. Every chance for a ride is welcome – and you usually can hear him 2 km away!

Bikes available as full bike feature!



CUSTOM CHROME EUROPE PRESS RELEASE - PUBLICATION FREE OF CHARGE Time is flying! Jeremy Distefano in 1996 Time is flying! Jeremy Distefano in 1996 at the "Free Wheels" in Cunlhat. Is it alat the "Free Wheels" in Cunlhat. Is it alat the "Free Wheels" in Cunlhat. Is it al-Jeremy Disterno







Jeremy DiStefano, Marketing

Coming from the French Sales office to Germany must have been a culture shock" for Jeremy DiStefano – but his passion for building French" Custombikes, Bobbers and Café Racers, helped to smoothen the initial language barrier. He served with the French sales team before coming to Germany, mastering the German language in short time to work in challenging jobs at the Grolsheim Marketing department.

His latest private project" is a cool aged" Softail Twin Cam which is a Daily Rider" with a lot of work in the metal brushing" of most aluminum and metal parts



CUSTOM CHROME EUROPE PRESS RELEASE - PUBLICATION FREE OF CHARGE Jeremy Distefano's 2012 "Kinbaku" Iron-Jeremy Distefano's Sportster of which the head "Japan Style" Sportster of which the head "Japan Style" Sportster of which the painted parts still exist. Jeremy Disterano (II)







visible, including heads, air filter and pipes! The bike has everything a New School" Bobber needs and is – Jeremy is already on the next project – for sale!

One of his previous rides is the outstanding Café Racer" Sportster which he rode from the French office to Llorett de Mar in Spain, supporting CCE's staff at the then existing custombike event north of Barcelona. He is already working on a new project which he decribes as fuck for homologation" and in which he will realize some ideas which are unlikely ever to get street homologation. Living near Grolsheim today, there is no doubt that the bike will feature some CCE components.

Bikes are available as full bike feature!











Sigrid Kuhn-Fuchs, Sales

Riding motorcycles since 1982, it isn't surprising that Kawasaki's 440 Ltd was her first ride. Followed by 2 sidcar-equipped bikes, BMW R 51/3, SR 500 and Harley's Ironhead" Sportster. Her current Raven" was built by Maniac MechaniX in 2015 and – naturally – is completely modified with CCE parts. Those parts she is selling everyday to the CCE Dealers. Based on a Fat Boy" Twin Cam of 2001 it was taken apart completely for powder coating and painting plus a complete engine refit with modern CCE catalogue components.

Bike available as full bike feature!











Andy Tozer, CCE Sales Rep UK

Working for CCE as the UK Sales Representative since 2007, Andy Tozer knows the British scene inside out. His first BSA C15 looked already "bobbed" and through the years he has owned numerous Evos and Twin Cams, most of which were modified – especially when he teamed up with CCE. His latest bike – Tuff Burner – is half fun-bike, half BMX-bike style stuntbike. And it's a rider! Based on a Softail Twin Cam B, plenty of hours were spent to clean up" electrics and 1976 Shovelhead frame to achive this result!

Images: Special Thanks to Blue Miller!



CUSTOM CHROME EUROPE PRESS RELEASE - PUBLICATION FREE OF CHARGE Christian Denstedt burns a full circle during European Bike Week in Faak at the Arneitz Custom Show Bike presentations! Christian Denstedt







Christian Denstedt, Manager Customer Service

Operating his own custombike business beside his job at Custom Chrome Europe is a challenging task – but it sure gives Christian Denstedt THE top perspective a distributor needs: He knows both sides of the business from hands-on experience – and he can add this expertise to improve it every day! For me, American V-twin Custombikes are a job and a passion, "states Christian, I was 15 as a good friend of my father bought his 1994 Fat Boy with Khrome Werks mufflers, at the moment I have heared the engine for the first time running, I knew what I will do in the future." Maniac MechaniX, his off-











CCE workshop has created a number of outstanding custom motorcycles, most of them with an artistic" twist that make them unique. His other passion is Medieval Lifestyle – and some of his custom projects reflect this passion too. Skin Hunter" is his latest creation and is a perfect example of the quality and creativity to expect from Denstedt: "After I had finished the Gymnasium, I started my apprenticeship at official HD Dealer", he recalls, I worked for some dealers before I started my work at CCE. But I'm one of the people, who can't only work in the office and so, my wife and me opened an own Custombike-Shop. His numerous tasks at CCE include assessment of new products plus testing and approval of the Bolt On and Ride" bikes.

Bikes available as full bike feature!











Mirco Buschmann-Adam, Product Manager
Working in Custombike Scene and working with passioned two-wheel enthusiasts is a great pleasure for me. Meeting great people, seeing cool parts and bikes, having fun – that is what drives me forward in my job with Custom Chrome Europe", states Mirco Buschmann-Adam. His motorcycle history includes a BMW R25-3, FXEF 80, HD Sportsters and the Street Bob. Working for The Factory" gets him focussed what is working with the motorcycles, since his day job" is evaluation and testing of new parts that may or may not enter the CCE catalog. Which might be the reason for his current ride: The 2015 750 Street, slightly modified.

Bike available as full bike feature!











Marc Strieffler, Sales Director

My goal for Custom Chrome Europe? Selling more parts!" Marc Strieffler is direct in his message, since he is the Director of the Sales Department, responsible for the in house" sales staff, the international Sales Representatives and the fast and growing segment of Dealer Store" sales, now the quickest way to get the latest parts of the CCE programme, long before they hit the Catalog Update or the annual CCE Catalog which arrives at the end of March each year. With long hours in the office, it seems a miracle that he was able to customize his own bikes at home, of course from CCE parts, what else?











Marc Strieffler, Sales Director (cont.)
His motorcycle heritage is already impressing: Softails,
Dyna, Shovels, Sportsters, Kawasaki and the Honda MB
80 he started with. The Shovelhead Bobber was started in 2009 and has always been modified. Marc rides the hell out of his bikes - as well as the Bolt On and Ride" bikes that are built each season. If you look for somebody to take some peg-scratching riding action shots, he's the one to ask! The latest addition to his garage is yet to be painted, but the inspiration is obvious: Independent Choppers 2013 Custom Cross" scrambler not just caught his attention.

Bikes available as full bike feature!







Geraldine Rietzler, Sales Rep France France is not just a huge country to serve as a Sales

France is not just a huge country to serve as a Sales Representative for Custom Chrome Europe, it is also home to an enthusiastic motorcycle scene! Geraldine Rietzler started riding Big Bikes" at the age of 20 – and her rides are both as diversified as challenging! The Yamaha XT 600 Supermotard" is a multi-terrain/purpose bike which really kicks ass where ever you go! Moto Guzzi's 1100 Sport brought her to V-Twins and she rode several sidecars. With a full event calendar from Pequencourt in the rainy north and Port Grimaud Rally in the South, Geraldine and her crew are busy meeting and serving dealers and manufacturers – also on two wheels, if possible.



Classic ride: Geraldine Rietzler aboard the Harley-Davidson XLCR "Café Racer" enjoys the French countryside.









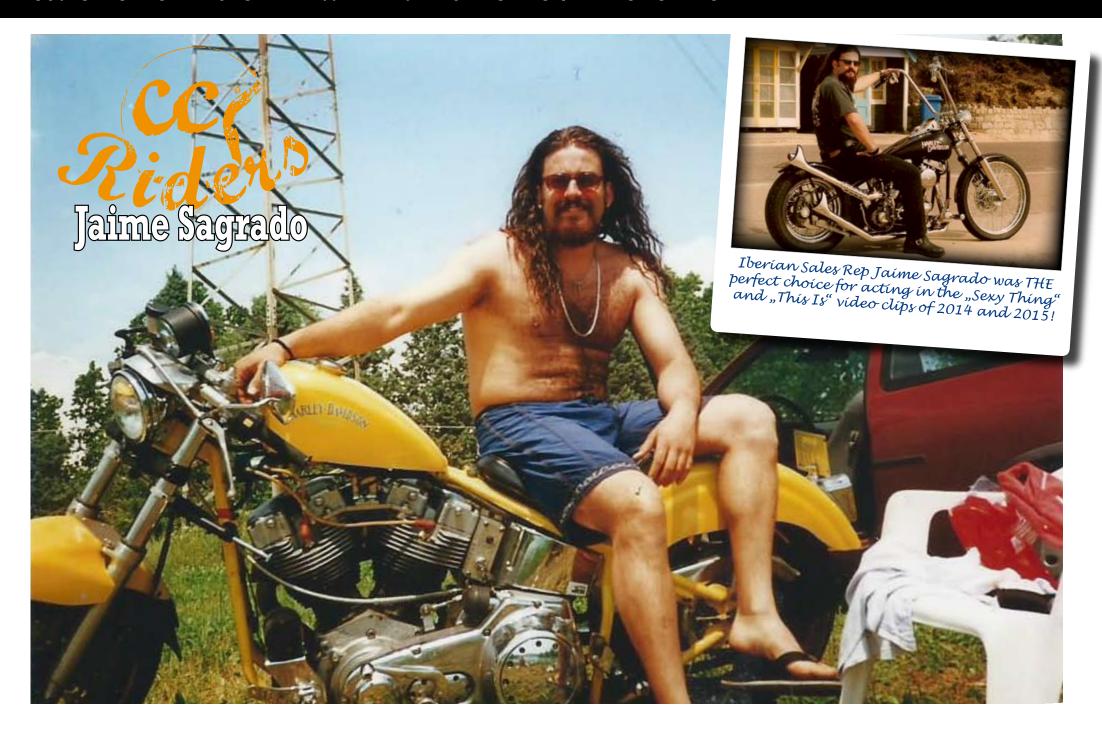




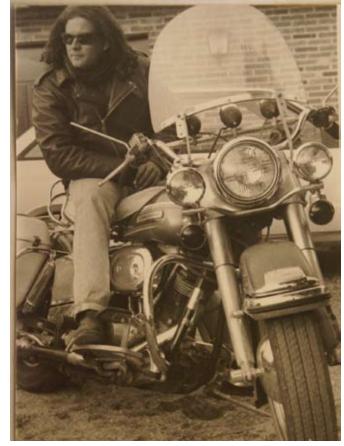
Marcel Masaryk, Sales Rep East Europe

By any means Marcel Masaryk has the biggest and most diverse area of any CCE Sales Rep: With the exception of the former GDR, now part of Germany, everything east of the former Iron Curtain" is his turf! Adjusting to the different mentalities, custom styles and drinking habits in countries where Harleys, let alone custombikes, were a unreachable dream until 1989 – and to some extend still are. Developing new and yet unknown markets – Marcel benefits from the multiple languages he speaks. He has a close contact to East Europe's Custom and Harley scene and is a dedicated rider too! Add his native Hungarian speaking wife Eva who also rides and you got the perfect team!











Jaime Sagrado, Sales Rep Iberia

Born in the year of Easy Rider's" release, Jaime Sagrado started riding motorcycles at the age of 6. As in Italy, Spain is a country where the kids are still motorcycle-crazy – and riding a motorcycle is not demonized". And there's the weather... Following many Moto Cross bikes, even in competition, a 1974 FLH was his first street bike, succeeded by two FXRs, Softail, Dyna and other Milwaukee Iron. As the Sales Rep for Spain and Portugal, Jaime has the option of visiting his clients on two wheels most of the year, although the distances on the Iberian Peninsula are long.











Ivano Segato, Sales Rep Italy
Italy is without doubt one of the main markets for custombikes and motorcycles, thanks to the largely fine and fair weather in most parts of the country and the long motorcycle heritage of North Italy based national manufacturers of which some share a close history with Harley-Davidson. Italians are motorcycle crazy" in the positive sense, since they use the motorcycle for what it is: A practical matter of transport in crowded citys! Ivano Segato, CCE's Sales Rep for Italy has also been raised on motorcycles and he knows his business! Always a close eye on the market, Ivano is at home in his office as well as at the big shows like EICMA and Verona.









Günther Müller, Purchasing Director

During the ordinary workday, little is seen of the Purchasing Director – other than the shelves at CCE have a fill rate that has become outstanding in the scene. Which comes from his long-term experience with CCE and the suppliers: Günther started already with Tom's" in 1997 and has been with Custom Chrome Europe from the start. His Sin Vergüenza", built from CCE parts by Hell's Kitchen Choppers" following his ideas – is still used as a eyecatcher by HKC on events and fairs. He started on Honda's MTX and also owned a original Moto Guzzi 850 in the "Polizia" outfit!

Bike available as full bike feature (if you havn't already published it :-)!



CUSTOM CHROME EUROPE PRESS RELEASE - PUBLICATION FREE OF CHARGE Lothar Foerst and his son posing aboard his RevTech 88 powered Chopper, which was built from 2000 to 2004. **Lothar Först**











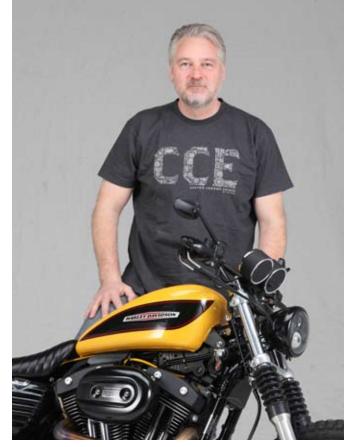
Helmut Sekowski, Sales Rep European and German clients know the voice of Helmut Sekowski at CCE's Sales department, when they are in close contact ordering parts. Few have seen his 2000 model year Dyna Glide Sport, which was somewhat a predecessor of the Street Bob". Through the years, Helmut has customized the bike himself, following the Street Dragster" style, popular from the mid-nineties, later to be somewhat commercialized" in the TV-Outlaw-Soap Sons of Anarchy" (which Helmut never watched!). Lamp mask is CCE (although the SoA Ness part is also available) and handlebar height is moderate.

Bike available as full bike feature!











Andreas Scholz, Managing Director

The passion for riding and for Harley-Davidson motorcycles started long before Andreas Scholz took the helm as Custom Chrome Europe's Managing Director". Scholz came to CCE in 2005, with an expanding market and international customizing and Harley-Davidson sales at a seemingly ever rising path – until the US-induced bank, credit and housing crisis of 2008. Callenging" would massively understate the market situation since then, including two ownership changes – but Scholz has steered the ship through rough waters" and his decision for erecting the











brandnew Grolsheim-based warehouse did change the course for Custom Chrome Europe and turned out to create a positive push" to a hesitant and stagnating customizing scene in Europe. After some Japanese Soft Choppers" and street bikes in the early 80s, Andreas has owned about a dozen (!) Harleys of which the last two are still operated by him, time permitting. The job at CCE – and far from home – does not allow much time on his own two wheels, but whenever it is possible he still uses them for extensive touring: About 20 tours in the US and many more rides in Europe took place on his bikes, but he also tours and rides the Bolt On and Ride" bikes, one of the brilliant concepts he pushed to the current popularity!

Bikes available as full bike feature!





WWW.MOTOGRAPHER.DE

PRESS RELEASE BIKE FEATURE



Dipl.-Ing. Horst Rösler

Werrastraße 26

60486 Frankfurt/Main - Germany

Phone./Fax +49 - (0)69 - 77 22 87 Mobile +49 - (0)172 - 69 56 338

e-mail: Motographer@GMX.de w w w . m o t o g r a p h e r . d e

CC-Riders: Custom Chrome Europe's riding staff...

...marks one of the most experienced and dedicated teams of all customparts distributors worldwide. Not just do a lot of staff members ride motorcycles, they often build their own custombikes, take part in the photoshoots and even acting" when CCE promotion videos are shot. All this reflects back to their knowledge and experience when serving their clients. The sparse time to ride – working for CCE is more than an ordinary" job – leaves little time to ride together, but in this story you can find some of CCE's voices" from the telephone or the shows like you have never experienced them before: Presenting their own rides which they sometimes use every day for riding to work. It looks cool, but it is hard work too!

TEXTE OPTIONAL IN DEUTSCH

TEXTS OPTIONAL IN ENGLISH

COVER OPTIONS







2013_GR-0020.jpg

ART_IMG_2493.jpg

IMG_2488.jpg

NOTE:

Images are sorted by folders to allow you fast access to a) images in this layout or b) a preselection from all images available.