HIRED GUN

Spray-paint gun, that is

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Have gun, will travel. Those four words could easily become Gunslinger Custom Paint's motto because the custom baggers that roll out of this shop in Golden, Colorado, clearly are built for the open road. For proof, check the spec sheet for the silver bullet featured on these pages. Other than an H-D Big Sucker air cleaner and the Rinehart exhaust, its 96-cubic-inch Big Twin engine is all stock. The FLHX frame wasn't molested during the facelift, either, and most of the body panels, save for the modified gas tank and fenders that form the centerpiece for GCP's Regulator Kit, are standard issue for Harley's stalwart custom bagger, the Street Glide.

"We built this bike for Sturgis," explained GCP's Jeff Theisen. "We wanted to show what we do." And what GCP does is convert ordinary baggers into rather stylish rides that stand up to the rigors of long-distance riding. "We build about 20 or so custom baggers a year, most of them for dealers who have stock or plain bikes that have sat on the floor for some time." Jeff says that after GCP's hired guns have put a bike in their sights, the dressed-up bagger is returned to its dealer where it usually sells, in Jeff's words, "right away."

The facelift typically begins with GCP's Regulator Kit that includes a stretched H-D gas tank, smoothed front fender and a replacement FBI rear section with 200mm tire and accompanying swingarm, fender and fillers. Also available are stretched side covers (not shown on this bike), custom wheels and brakes, and new rubber. No doubt, more custom add-ons can be mixed into the stew, but Harley's designers did such a masterful job styling the FLHX that unless a customer specifies, there's really no point in replacing the OE foot controls, mirrors, etc.

But what really showcases a Gunslinger bagger is its paint. For good reason because Gunslinger Custom Paint is a premier custom paint shop, painting over 80 bikes a week for the nation's leading motorcycle manufacturer. GCP uses what they consider to be the best paints available, choosing either PPG or Sherwin Williams' classic Planet Color line of toners. For this particular

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