



HEART OF THE CITY

BALLISTIC CYCLES' GANGSTER STREET GLIDE PACKS HEAT

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PHOTOS: DON KATES



Look, I'm on my grind, cousin. Ain't got time for frontin'. Sensitive thugs, y'all need hugs.

Jay Z's "Heart of the City" off his classic opus *The Blueprint* depicts street life through hustling, making money, and the envy that ensues. You may or may not listen to Hov, but the precepts are universal, especially espoused with the prototypical gangster narrative he so often extrapolates upon. This particular ditty was the main theme backgrounding trailers and commercials for 2007's crime drama *American Gangster* starring Denzel Washington. These principles are so universal, in fact, that we are reminded of them when looking at Ballistic Cycles' own gangster opus.

"We have some curvy windy roads in Wisconsin, and we like to ride hard and fast," Ballistic Co-owner Tim McNamer asserts. "This bike was built to handle any road condition and style."

The Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, outfit built just that—not just some "sensitive thug" show bike that one would be nervous to roll out on the mean streets but a Street Glide assembled with the rake and trail to ensure a safe, stable ride despite rocking a 30-inch front wheel. At the crux of Ballistic's engineering is its new front-end strut system that incorporates the wheel spacer, fender mount, and brake mount all in one piece.

"That piece right there has basically changed the way the 30 rides," Tim informs us. "It totally stabilizes the front end. It went



from 2 square inches of mounting surface of your fender to 24 inches, which makes a huge difference on a 30. We're pretty proud of it."

Known more for its Road Glides, Ballistic went in on this Street Glide to create something stubby and dirt bike inspired. "My brother, Mike, is really into dirt bikes, so we wanted to have that racy feel to it where you'd feel like jumping off real quick to hit a jump. We actually took this bike on our dirt bike track here at the shop. It's just something you need to see: a 30-inch bagger going off some jumps."

Putting together this bike's lowrider gangster look was another process that was anything but typical. You'll notice the Glide's "tattoo neck," aesthetically designed with a spade cutout for its criminal look yet still functional with all wiring still routed inter-

nally. Tim tells us that rather than paint the neck, they wanted to do something different.

Speaking of paint, rather than your standard "sent the tins out for color" move, Ballistic flew in painter Jordan Howie, of Cypress Customs in Jackson, Mississippi, to bring the gangster theme to life. It was necessary to fly Jordan in to get the artwork done in time for Sturgis.

"He was here seven, eight days," Tim recalls. "He stayed right here at the shop, and as long as we kept him primed with food and Red Bulls, Jordan was nonstop."

The crime scenes tattooed across the Glide aren't excerpts from any specific movies you've seen; they're murals that Jordan



AESTHETICALLY DESIGNED WITH A SPADE CUTOUT FOR ITS CRIMINAL LOOK



came up with on his own. Tim didn't want to do anything that's been done before, so he left it to his painter to dream up the dark suits, fedoras, cigars, Tommy guns, revolvers, and city skylines. Ballistic's gangster tourer packs heat.

The fairing is another point of pride for Tim. By modifying its fairings, Ballistic is typically able to drop them 7 or 8 inches and lighten them to less than 20 pounds. Whereas Tim sees other shops sticking to short necks to make their bikes work, Ballistic combined a short neck with its modified fairing to pull off the very cool look of its gangster Glide.

These innovations keep Ballistic ahead of the curve. Tim expects the industry to follow Ballistic's lead, specifically its geometry and front strut innovations. He thinks other shops will move away from laying frame because, as he puts it, "When the bikes are aired down, they look cool, but when they jack them all up, they look stupid. We wanted to build a bike that looked good rolling down the highway or sitting down slammed."

Both the new front-end strut and the fairing, as well as the rest of the Ballistic parts used to create this tourer, are available now from Ballistic Cycles' website.



FACTOIDS



The Thompson submachine gun was invented in 1919 by John T. Thompson and rose to popularity during the Prohibition era. It was also known as the "Tommy Gun," "Chicago Typewriter," and "The Chopper."

Rapper Jay Z's "Heart of the City (Ain't No Love)" samples Bobby "Blue" Bland's 1974 R&B hit "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City." A then-little-known Kanye West scored some of this earliest recognition as producer on Jay's 2001 rendition.



RICO is short for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations



Act. It's a US federal law that levies extended criminal penalties for acts performed as part of an ongoing criminal organization.



SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL

BIKE OWNER	Ballistic Cycles
SHOP NAME	Ballistic Cycles
SHOP PHONE	[608] 437-1556
SHOP WEBSITE	ballisticcycles.com
YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	2013/H-D/Street Glide
FABRICATION	Ballistic Cycles
ASSEMBLY	Ballistic Cycles
BUILD TIME	Six weeks

ENGINE

YEAR/MANUFACTURER	2013/H-D
TYPE/SIZE	103
BUILDER	H-D
CASES	H-D
CYLINDERS	H-D
HEADS	H-D
ROCKER BOXES	H-D
EFI/CARB	H-D
AIR CLEANER	H-D
EXHAUST	Vance & Hines
SPECIAL FEATURES	SE 255 cams, custom powdercoated engine and covers, Hot Toppers engine kit

TRANSMISSION

YEAR/MANUFACTURER/TYPE	H-D
CASE	H-D

CLUTCH H-D (upgraded hydraulic)

PRIMARY DRIVE H-D

FRAME

YEAR/MANUFACTURER	2013/H-D/ Touring model
RAKE	Custom Ballistic Secret
STRETCH	Custom Ballistic Secret

SUSPENSION

MANUFACTURER FRONT	Ballistic Cycles, H-D, Arlen Ness
LENGTH	Air-ride adjustable
TRIPLE TREES	HHL (raked +5 in.)
MANUFACTURER REAR	Ballistic Cycles
SPECIAL FEATURES	Ballistic body kit, Ballistic front and rear air-ride system with custom ride and dampening controls and built-in air tank

WHEELS, TIRES, AND BRAKES

MANUFACTURER FRONT-TYPE	Glenndyne
WHEEL HEIGHT/WIDTH	30 in.
TIRE HEIGHT/WIDTH	140/40/30
CALIPER	Ballistic Cycles w/ strut mount
ROTOR	18-in.
MANUFACTURER REAR	H-D
WHEEL HEIGHT/WIDTH	16 x 6-in.
TIRE HEIGHT/WIDTH	180
CALIPER	H-D
ROTOR	H-D

FINISH-PAINT

COLOR	Gloss black
PAINTER	Ballistic Cycles, Jordan Howie
GRAPHICS	Jordan Howie

ACCESSORIES

FRONT FENDER	B'Cool
REAR FENDER	Ballistic Cycles
FAIRING/WINDSCREEN	Ballistic Cycles
GAUGES	Dakota Digital
GAS TANK/CAP	Ballistic Cycles
DASH	Ballistic Cycles
OIL TANK	H-D
HANDLEBARS	Ballistic Cycles
HAND CONTROLS/GRIPS	H-D
FOOT CONTROLS/PEGS	H-D
HEADLIGHT	Ballistic Cycles
TAILLIGHT	Ballistic Cycles
TURN SIGNALS	Ballistic Cycles
LICENSE MOUNT	Ballistic Cycles
SEAT	Ballistic Cycles, Guys Upholstery
SADDLEBAGS	Ballistic Cycles ABS bags
SADDLEBAG LATCHES	Ballistic Cycles
SPEAKERS	JL Audio
HEAD UNIT	Apple iPod interface
AMP	200-watt JL Audio
MISC	Ballistic Cycles brake/fender struts