

## STR8 LOCO - 2007 HARLEY-DAVIDSON HERITAGE SOFTAIL CLASSIC



Written by Kristie Bertucci

Photos by Roman Racela on 24 December 2013.

There are builds that make you do a second take, then there are those which photos don't even begin to do it justice... Str8 Loco is one of these creations. The one-off 2007 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail® Classic owned by Steve Castillo is well known among the custom ride scene as a show-stopping masterpiece, which has won numerous awards since it first made its debut.

Growing up in Lowrider culture, thanks to his dad, Castillo was well versed in its lifestyle and the requirements of having a clean ride, something that would later continue on with his interest in bikes. Over the years, he's had a few two-wheeled toys,

but has always had a particular liking for Harley-Davidson motorcycles, describing them as more his style. "They're more laid back than sport bikes and made for cruising and going out for a nice ride, which is what I'm all about," Castillo describes.

After dressing up his father's Harley, Castillo decided it was time to create his own beauty and began work on Str8 Loco's first build, which was nowhere close to its current state. A few of its early modifications included: a custom gas tank, teal paint job, diamond-cut engine with no engraving, minor chrome parts, a stretched fender and an air ride suspension.





But after realizing how others were surpassing his bike at various shows, Castillos knew it was time to up his game and broke down the bike all the way to its frame back in 2009. "I noticed a lot of people were really taking it to the next level and wondered what I could do to make it better than theirs," he admits. "From there I just kept doing things in stages and it was ready to show in 2010."

For this makeover, Castillos didn't want to do what everyone else was doing and opted to follow his own style while still pushing the limits. "You can do a lot to a Harley-Davidson, but you have to have a vision and be imaginative," he notes. "Knowing there's so many different ways to do a bike, I chose to make it extreme, but elegant. I just wanted to make a really nice, good-looking show bike."

To make his vision come true, Castillos opted for custom one-off rims, a one-off seat, a candy teal paint job, more chroming and intricate engraving

patterns that really accentuate the bike's theme without making it seem too overdone. The paint job is clean with no wild murals, and just his "Str8 Loco" logo on the bike's running board.

Giving his engraver, Hernan's Custom Engraving (Montclair, CA), free reign, Castillos' only request was that everything be kept in the style of the bike. "You can't do one thing and do another section another way," he explains. "I wanted my bike to have all its parts flow together, from the front to the back. You can't break up what's going on through the bike. I was actually a bit worried about the engraving and had some of it broken up so that not every piece is engraved. That looks too cluttered in my opinion. You need to break it up or you'll lose track of what you're looking at." The candy teal paint was done by

Steve Deman of Kolor Kings, who is well known within the scene as dressing up many customizations in beautiful colors.





Currently, his favorite part of the Harley is its unique wheels, which feature thick diamond-cut spokes that are painted the same color of the bike (with the brake calipers sporting the same look). "People have fallen in love with these wheels." Even though it looks as if it's strictly a show bike, Str8 Loco is not only built to impress, but ride smooth, running and functioning 100%. "It's a complete show bike, but it's ready to roll if I pop off the calipers and change the one-off rims for some others," he admits, noting that haters usually knock his bike because they don't see it on the street. "This stuff isn't cheap," he tells of all the customizations. "If I want to ride it I can, but I choose not to because replacing these custom parts if anything happens costs a lot of money."

For now, Str8 Loco, is finished, given the extensive work that's been completed, but Castillos does mention that it will make more appearances on the show circuit and hinted that he's debating on

if he should change it up a bit. "I believe I'm done with it for the most part... only because I'm scared if I do something it'll be too much and be over the top," he revealed. "I don't want to mess up the bike. It's at a good stage right now and it's getting the attention it deserves."

#### Awards

- Two-time Torres Empire Super Show Best of Show and 1st Place
- 2012 Saboba Casino Best of Show
- 63rd 2012 Grand National Roadster Show, Achievement Award, Outstanding Detail, and Outstanding Display
- 2012 DUB Show L.A. First Place
- 2012 Easyrider O.C. First Place
- 2011 Lowrider Magazine Super Show in Las Vegas First Place





Vivian Kindle

TECH SPECS: 2007 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail® Classic

Engraving	Hernans Custom Engraving in Montclair, CA
Paint	Steve Deman (www.kolorkings.com)
Custom Stitched Seat	California Upholstery
Diamond Cut Motor and other parts	Diamond Heads in Herderson, Nevada
Air Ride	Platinum Air Ride

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