

Our Readers Our Readers



ELBleu

A vision brought into being

By Marc Danis

Since my youth I've always enjoyed every possible "fun" vehicle out there, motocrosses, ATV's, a snowmobile and yes a sportbike. Being a fan of performance and modifications I added an exhaust and custom handlebars to the bike, not only to be different but also for more power. I first developed my taste for customizing with my snowmobile by repainting the shocks, the skis, the bumpers and by creating new graphics for the finish.

My V-Rod strategy began in January of 2007 while I was looking at a Bike Trader publication. I noticed a Night Rod Special for sale and so the following day I called but unfortunately it was sold. Two of my friends from Val d'Or rode V-Rods and that gave me the craving for a Night Rod Special. I started my quest the following week by calling my Harley dealer but to my disappointment there wasn't anymore

2008's available. I then called all the other dealerships in Quebec but without success. I then turned to Ontario and by my second call I found one. Bibeau Motosports - my local Harley Davidson dealer - really helped out by swapping out another model for the V-Rod in Ottawa. From there I acquired my bike.

Even before having found my "Special" I had several visions of the bike that included custom touches, among them the mat black color and blue chrome accents. Today with the Internet there is an unimaginable quantity of parts at hand but what better way to have a truly unique bike than to fabricate parts yourself.

This is how ELBleu was born. I began by removing the orange highlights and replaced them with the blue chrome. I added a one hundred and sixty five piece fastener cover kit from Hot



Toppers, the swingarm caps, grills on the brake calipers as well as several other parts that I had colored blue. I changed the grips, the mirrors (that include turnsignals from Dumbassbikes), and the control levers from NLC of Europe. They are flawless, robust and add a beautiful finishing touch. The upgraded suspension system is from Arnott (HOT!). I also cleaned up the rear fender by adding tiny LED flashers. I continued with a K&N filter, a CRF exhaust system, digital temperature gauge from V-Mod and an adjustable brake pedal. The flamed shifter rod was installed to reflect a small part of my life (I'm a part time fireman). I then installed a custom sport fairing and ram air covers. I molded the intake area for the ram air inlets and also the radiator shell to better follow the lines of the bike. I modified the belt guard by giving it a shorter look as well as cutting out the letters "ELBleu". The front fender was reversed to give it a tougher look but it did require a one-off support bracket.

Sculpted from a solid block of aluminum, the demon's skull horn cover includes real horns that come from my first hunted Moose. The paint was done in flat black with two gloss black stripes added down the middle of the fenders, fairing and tank. From front to back, Dubuisson Bodywork did a great job.

In 2009 my bike really made people talk! I won the Show and Shine and the Smoke Show competition at the Val d'Or Bike Week. Later I visited the Mont-Laurier Super Motorcycle Weekend, as well as the Coaticook Show. ELBLEU didn't go unnoticed. People also have fun calling my bike the "Batman" bike. A special thanks to my circle of friends for their encouragement and also my photographers Steve Frenette and Aimé DesLauriers for the great photo session at the old mine site in Val d'Or. I hope to see you soon.

You can also see the evolution of ELBleu on my website at <http://marc-danis.e-monsite.com/>.