

RSD DIESEL FRONT WHEEL

The perfect shades of black for our Night Train

Here's our Roland Sands Design (RSD) front wheel, on the tire machine and ready to receive its new Continental Conti Milestone 80/90-21" front tire. Dan has rags between the wheel and tire machine to protect the paint.

IS IT JUST ME OR IS THE NIGHT TRAIN ONE OF THE coolest, most badass bikes The Motor Company has ever come out with? Sure, there's been some pretty menacing-looking black beauties over the years, but in terms of Twin Cam reliability and Softail comfort, the Night Train has most of them beat.

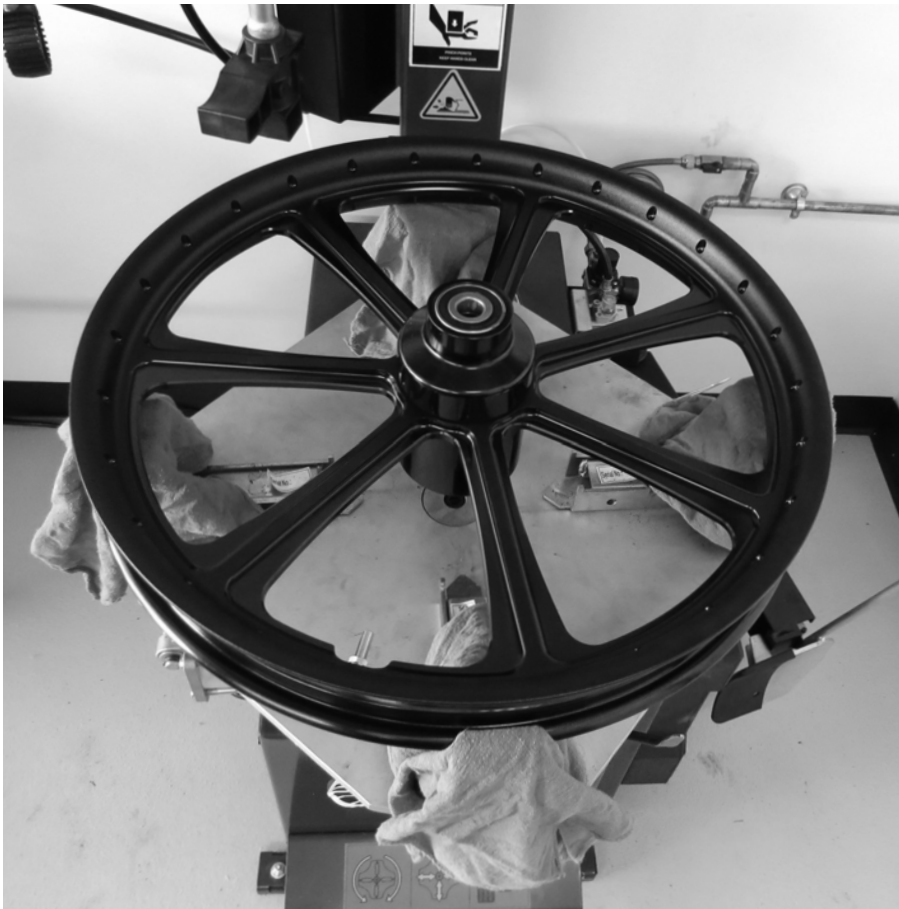
With these kinds of looks right out of the factory, owners have found it challenging to come up with the right combination of aftermarket parts to personalize their rides. But if there's been a company in recent years that has succeeded in making products that are guaranteed to look good on your bike, it's Roland Sands Design (RSD). So when we

wanted to crank up the attitude on our 2003 Night Train, it only made sense to go with a wheel that comes in a finish called Black Ops. Is there anything more befitting?

The RSD wheel we chose is the new-for-2014 21" Diesel 2.15-21" front wheel in the Black Ops finish (\$1,349.95), which is also available in

TOOLS NEEDED

- Blue Loctite
- Wheel grease (waterproof)
- Tire valve tool
- T-40 Torx
- 1/2" socket
- 1/2" socket (deep)
- 3/4" socket
- Torque wrench (ft-lbs.) ■



PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS BY CHRIS MAIDA

2 Dan's first step is to check the tightness of the valve stem in the wheel using a 1/2" deep socket. He then removes the tire valve stem.



3 Noting the tire's direction arrows and balance dot, Dan carefully mounts the new Conti tire onto the new RSD wheel. Dan has the arm of the tire machine adjusted so it doesn't actually touch the wheel.



4 After he has inflated the Conti tire to seat it to the RSD wheel, Dan reinstalls the valve stem and sets the tire pressure to 36 psi.



5 Using the bike lift chock to stabilize it, Dan mounts the RSD matching rotor onto the RSD wheel using new chrome bolts, blue Loctite, and a T-40 Torx. He torques the bolts to 24 ft-lbs.

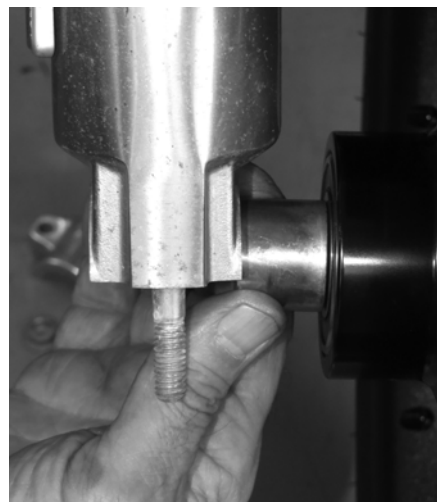
thunder cycle

tsukayu

hd winds



6 He then puts it on a K&L tire balancer and adds the needed amount of weight. When he's done, we took the wheel to the AIM shop for the rest of the installation.



9 He then positions the stock right wheel spacer between the RSD wheel and right lower fork leg. The right spacer is the shorter of the two stock spacers.



7 Here's our 2003 Night Train up on the lift and on a bike jack. The stock front wheel is removed, and the bike is ready to receive the new RSD wheel.

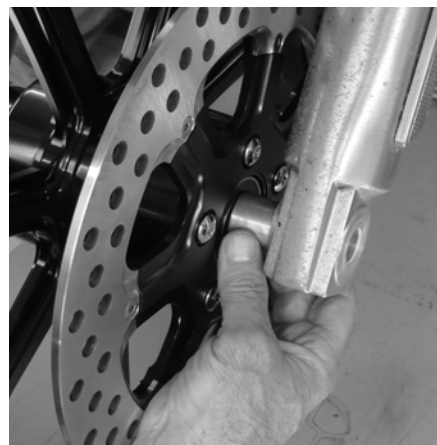


10 After putting a skin coat of waterproof wheel bearing grease on the axle, Chris sends the axle through the right fork leg, stock spacer, and part of the RSD wheel.

namz



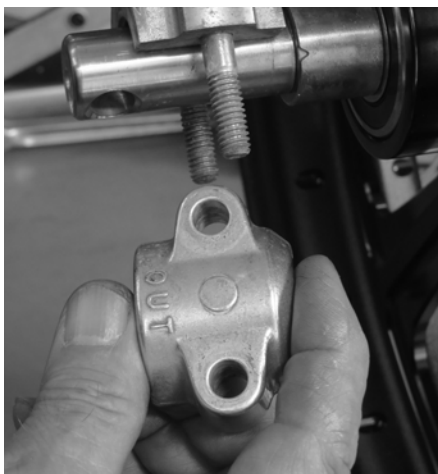
8 Chris positions the RSD front wheel under the fender and slips the RSD rotor between the front caliper's brake pads.



11 After he positions the left (longer of the two) stock wheel spacer between the left lower leg and the RSD wheel, Chris sends the axle through the spacer and left lower fork leg.



12 Chris then reinstalls the stock axle flat washer, lock washer, and nut. He just threads the nut on fingertight for now.



13 On the right lower fork leg, Chris reinstalls the stock fork cup with the word *OUT* facing out and away from the bike.



14 Chris can now reinstall the stock flat washers, lock washers, and nuts, with some blue Loctite on the stud threads, onto the right lower fork leg. He leaves the nuts fingertight for now.

big city thunder

ginz choppers

house sub



15 With a #4 Phillips screwdriver slipped into the hole that's in the right side of the axle to act as a handle, Chris uses a 3/4" socket to torque the axle to 50-55 ft-lbs.



16 Chris alternates between the cap nuts as he tightens them to 11-15 ft-lbs. using a 1/2" socket to ensure he has an even gap on each side. Chris also wants an even amount of threads (at least one) showing on each stud.



17 The last step is to spin the wheel to ensure it spins freely with only a slight drag on the rotor due to the brake pads. Chris also tests the front brake to ensure good function.

the equally new Machine Ops finish. Just look at the stunning level of detail on this wheel. It sports a classic seven-spoke design that's highlighted by speed dimples around the smooth-rolled rim lip and three-dimensional architecture on the spokes themselves. Each wheel comes with fully sealed, maintenance-free, deep-groove wheel bearings. But owners of H-D dark custom bikes, and creators of their own dark customs, are sure to love that Black Ops finish. It's a blend of gloss black on top of a contrasting textured black. If shades of black don't work for your ride, RSD also makes the Diesel wheel in Contrast Cut, Contrast Cut Platinum, or straight up chrome. Matching pulleys and rotors are available for each finish as well. To fully unite the look on our Night Train we opted for all the matching attachments, which included a front rotor (\$329.95) for this wheel install. This fixed rotor is a two piece assembly composed of a billet aluminum, CNC-machined inner carrier and high-grade, 420 stainless steel, Blanchard-ground outer band.

As long as we're going with a great-looking and high-performing set of wheels, it only makes sense to run with a pair of tires to match. We turned to Continental to accomplish that task and ordered an 80/90-21" Conti Milestone front tire (\$105.95).

Swapping out a front wheel is a do-it-yourself procedure, relatively speaking, so we did the install in our American Iron garage. But even we don't have a tire machine, so we brought the wheel and tire over to one of our regular shops, Rob's Dyno in Gardner, Massachusetts, to get the tire mounted. Dan has a handy K&L machine and knows just how to do it to avoid any damage to a new set of custom wheels. Next month, we'll be wrapping up our Night Train with a matching RSD Diesel wheel on the back. **AIM**

SOURCES

CONTINENTAL TIRE
ContinentalTire.com

ROB'S DYNO SERVICE
978/895-0441
RobsDyno.com

ROLAND SANDS DESIGN
877/773-6648
RolandSands.com

samson