

# THE PHATBACK™

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he held executive-level positions with Fortune 500 companies, such as Nike and Aramark. He hung up his suit and tie to wrench in his garage and redesign his own motorcycle. He wanted a design that was unique, affordable, and easy to customize. As he stripped his stock bike, he thought about ideas that would also provide emotional, functional, and aesthetic relevance to his design.

“Remember your first car? Mine was a 1969 Electra 225 convertible, also known as, a deuce and a quarter. I’ll always remember the ’49 Mercury my grandfather drove and the ’64 Corvette my uncle raced.” says Henry. “My older brother and supporter, Cranston, owns several classic cars and motorcycles. The craze for cars and bikes definitely runs in the family. I wanted to re-establish that sentimental connection I had with the old school classic cars that I remember and love from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Cars that had a streamlined, smooth and fluid look with fender skirts and integrated running boards.”

Inspired by the '49 Mercury and '55 Cadillac, Henry designed the PhatBack™ to resemble the lead sleds, low riders and classic muscle cars. The running boards and long, low fender skirts of the custom body kit were modeled from cars in some of his favorite mobster-themed movies.

## **From design to fabrication**

Henry placed medium-density fiberboard (MDF) on his bike and cut out shapes and curves for a template. He built the template up with layers of MDF spaced about two inches apart. He then stretched fleece over the template, stapled it in place and wet it down with fiberglass resin. Once the resin was dry, he trimmed it and applied modeling clay over the piece to sculpt the final shapes and dimensions. Henry then sprayed the clay with polyvinyl acetate (PVA), a releasing agent, which

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