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MXA'S GYRO GEARLOOSE INVENTION OF THE DAY: DON'T CALL THEM FORKS, CALL THEM THORKS

Sometimes really great ideas fail to catch on because their look offends the sensibilities of fashion conscious racers

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All it takes is some common sense and a 35 pound per square inch mixture of nitrogen and oxygen



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How much can your bike weigh? Would you believe that a 250 two-stroke can be 8 pounds less than a 450 four-stroke, but a 125 can be 18 pounds lighter...



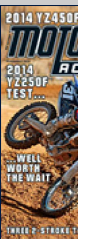
[WE RIDE DONNY EMLER'S](#)
[KX500/KTM 250SX HYBRID](#)
[TWO-STROKE PROJECT](#)
[BIKE](#)

Not every rider has the same dream bike in mind, but the MXA wrecking crew ran into two industry powerhouses who did share the same vision



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[UP IN THE MINI CLASS TO](#)
[MEET THE CHALLENGE](#)



Do you remember Gyro Gearloose? He was an anthropomorphic chicken created by the Walt Disney Company who appeared in the Scrooge McDuck comic-book series. Gyro was the town of Duckburg's most famous inventor. Because his inventions were rarely successful, the name Gyro Gearloose has become synonymous with any inventor with a crazy or crackpot idea. Motocross has had more than its fair share of Gyro Gearlooses—some amazingly successful, rich and lauded for their ideas, while others were derided, laughed at and forgotten for ideas that were just as good. Sadly, some of the most creative motocross inventions never made it to the bikes of a sport dedicated to innovation. MXA presents the latest installment in its series of weird and wacky inventions.

RICH THORWALDSON'S LEADING LINK FORKS...THORKS FOR SHORT



Thor forks were a modern update on the Earles forks of the 1960s.

During the 1960s and early '70s, many motorcycles came with leading link forks, often called Earles forks. Unlike the typical telescopic fork, leading links had the

MEET THE CHALLENGE POSED BY KTM

The Kawasaki KX85 has been unchanged since 2002 and those first KX85 riders are now in college—it's about time for a make-over



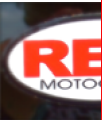
MXA'S 2014 KTM 150SX MOTOCROSS TEST: THIS BIKE IS DESIGNED TO BE RIDDEN BY A SPECIAL KIND OF RIDER

Let's agree right now that if you aren't a little crazy, you aren't KTM 150SX material. Plus, video at the end of the test



TIRED OF ONLY GETTING FOUR LAPS? WANT TO RACE LONG MOTOS? GO TO REM GLEN HELEN ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

REM offers one of the few SoCal weekly moto-wars that features a fun track, regular folk and long 20-minute motos for every class—none...



STEWIE SHOWS HOW TO GET SWAMPED AT THE START...AND COME BACK TO SECOND

How long will James stay winless in 2014? Not long! Maybe Saturday is his night



MXA HANGS OUT WITH GEICO HONDA'S ZACH OSBORNE

His GP career, working with Mike LaRocco, fishing versus golf, the ISDE and his hopes for the rest of the season



COOPER WEBB YARD SALE: IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS YOU SHOULD

Cooper rides out an awesome nose wheelie, but unfortunately he rode it all the way to the concrete



MOTOCROSS ACTION'S MID-WEEK REPORT BY JOHN BASHER (1/29/14)

The perfect photo for two-stroke diehards; top secret trickery that you can buy; see the gnarly crash that everyone's talking about; a message to key...



ANAHEIM III TRACK MAP: THIS IS IT BECAUSE THERE ISN'T AN ANAHEIM IV (THIS YEAR)

Although it is a very short drive to San Diego for next week's race



MXA TEAM TESTED: ALPINESTARS FLUID TECH CARBON KNEE BRACE

If you're wearing Alpinestars boots, wouldn't it make sense to wear Alpinestars knee braces? Maybe



MXA'S 2014 SUZUKI RM-Z450 MOTOCROSS TEST: IT'S A ONE TRICK PONY, BUT OH WHAT A TRICK

The RM-Z450 feels like the front end is attached to a slot-car groove. The yellow bike



uncanny ability to climb over bumps and obstacles by folding their shock absorber-suspended front link up and back with the force of the bump. Greeves, DKW, Sachs and even BMW were big supporters of leading link forks. Leading links eventually fell out of favor and were replaced by telescopic forks.

By the late '70s and early '80s, many racers from the early days of motocross believed that the idea of turning a swingarm around and using it to arc back towards the bike was the best way to make front suspension. They wanted to bring the lightweight, inexpensive and strong linking links back to the forefront. One of these was former Team Suzuki racer Rich Thorwaldson. After his racing days ended, Rich started an aftermarket company named Thor Racing that produced a very popular line of aluminum swingarms for race bikes. And in 1979, he decided to build his own set of leading link forks.



MXA test rider Pete Maly wringing out a set of Thorks at Saddleback Park.

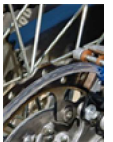
Thorwaldson's forks, called Thorks (for Thor forks) were four pounds lighter than the 36mm telescopic forks of the day. The Thorks used two S&W Stroker II shocks and featured 11 inches of travel. Thorks retailed for \$375 without shocks or \$475 with shocks. Other designers who believed in this fork concept included Valentino Ribí (the Ribí Quadrilaterals used by Roger DeCoster) and Horst Leitner (AMP forks used by Gary Jones). Many racers in the early 1970s stuck with leading links even after they had been replaced by telescopics, but the revival attempts by Thorwaldson, Ribí and Leitner were not successful in the marketplace.

can drive inside or every bike on the track — unless that bike ...



MXA TEAM TESTED: MOTION PRO MINI BRAKE BLEEDER

Motion Pro's mini bleeder tool combines the wrench, bleeder valve, hose and hydraulic pressure valve into one convenient and compact tool



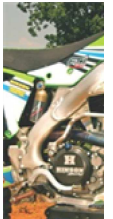
CLASSIC MOTOCROSS IRON: 1973 PUCH 125GS

A relative of the famous bikes sold in Sears & Roebuck, but not the same by any means



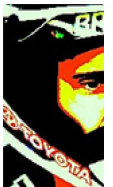
VIDEO: MEET JACOB HAYES THE NEW HERO OF ARENACROSS

If you'd like to know more about Jacob Hayes' bike, pick up the February issue of MXA on the news stands now



INSIDE THE PRO'S BIKES: JUSTIN BRAYTON'S TOYOTA JGR YAMAHA YZ450F

Justin runs the stock offset, GET ignition, Cyra shrouds, Kayaba suspension, longer linkage, Pirelli tires, GYTR cams and Ti bolts



INSIDE THE PRO'S BIKES: ZACH OSBORNE'S GEICO HONDA CRF250

Ever wonder exactly what parts, accessories and the Geico boys run? Find out here



2014 MXA 450 FOUR-STROKE SHOOTOUT: THE EASIEST TO READ AND MOST ACCURATE SHOOTOUT YOU'LL EVER READ

Real tests: Honda CRF450 versus Kawasaki KX450F versus KTM 450SX-F versus Suzuki RM-Z450 versus Yamaha YZ450F



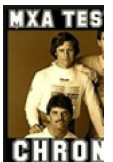
MXA TEAM TESTED: TM DESIGNWORKS KTM SLIDE-N-GLIDE KIT

If you are looking for a bulletproof chain guide and buffer system, the Slide-N-Glide kit is the best in the biz



MOTOCROSS ACTION TEST RIDER CHRONICLES: PETE MALY WAS THE ORIGINAL ONE

"Our intent from day one was to share our observations with the readers and hope that the manufacturers would take note and improve their bikes"



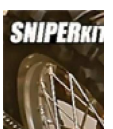
MXA TEAM TESTED: KITE/EXCEL WHEEL SET BY DUBYA

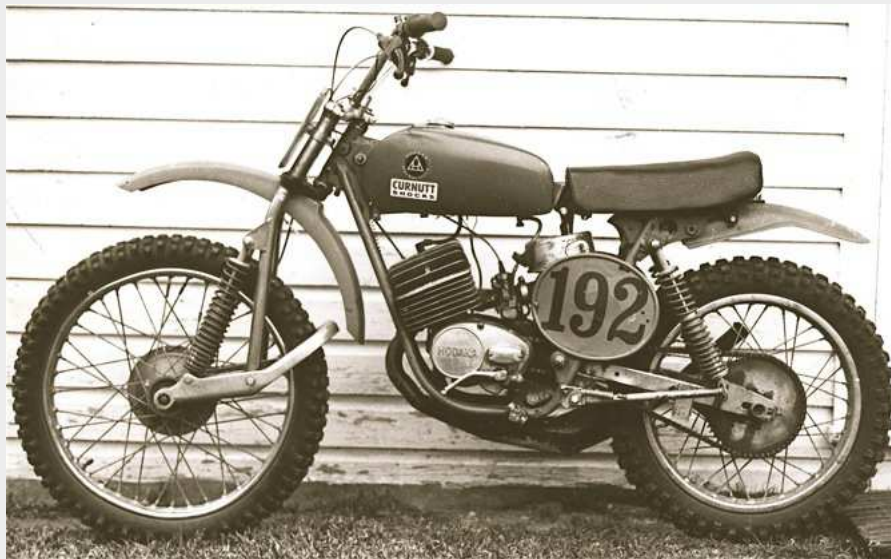
This is a competitive wheel, proven by the fact that weight-conscious riders like Ryan Dungey, James Stewart, Ken Roczen, Davi Millsaps and Antonio C...



MXA PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: TREAD DOCTOR SNIPER KIT VIDEO

Now you can groove your own tires with this affordable kit





Racers in the early 1970s could buy aftermarket leading link forks from Swenco, Webco and Van Tech to retro-fit on their race bike. This is Jody Weisel's Super Rat with Swenco forks (with a cast aluminum arm, chromoly legs and Curnutt shocks).

Unfortunately, Thorwaldson's leading link forks were too radical for the racers of 1979. Although they worked really well, the look was too weird for most fashion conscious riders to use. Rich eventually closed Thor Racing and became a successful Honda dealer in Nevada. He was tragically killed in a road race accident in 2004.

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ARC COMPOSITE
FOLDING LEVERS](#)



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KENDON STAND-UP
MOTORCYCLE
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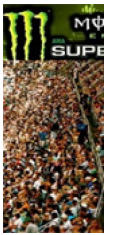


[MXA PRODUCT TEST:
MX-Tech KTM 450SX
WP Shock Mod](#)



[RAPID RESULTS:
OAKLAND SUPERCROSS
FALLS TO RYAN
VILLOPOTO](#)

You won't believe it, but Jason Anderson pulled a lap victory when Dean Wilson's engine stalled on the jump



[OAKLAND SUPERCROSS
PRACTICE GALLERY](#)

Check out all the photos our video guy Travis F practice today!



[MOTOCROSS ACTION
PHOTO OF THE DAY: CHAD
TAKES A MOMENT TO
COUNT HIS BLESSINGS](#)

We don't always think of motocross stars as being human, but in truth they live in a very fragile state of ego and doubt



[MOTOCROSS ACTION
AMA RULE OF THE WEEK:
YOU CAN'T PLAY THE
GAME IF YOU DON'T KNOW
THE RULES](#)

You can't run drum brakes or carbon fiber rotors, but titanium and aluminum rotors are legal (on the front only)



[THIS MUCH WE KNOW!
MAKING THE MOST OF
THE POWER VALVE ON
YOUR KTM 250/300 TWO-
STROKE](#)

You may be afraid to touch it, but there is power hidden in the adjustment to the Katoom's power valve — we show you how to unlock it



[MEET MARTIN DAVALOS:
THE FASTEST MAN FROM
ECUADOR](#)

The Pro Circuit Kawasaki rider has been in the Pro ranks for nine years



[MOTOCROSS ACTION'S
MID-WEEK REPORT BY
DARYL ECKLUND \(1/22/14\)](#)

MXA goes ice racing; Mini View galore; Did you this weekend; Do you drink enough water?



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WARNING: Much of the action depicted in this magazine is potentially dangerous. Virtually all of the riders seen in our photos are experienced professionals. Do not attempt to duplicate any stunts that are beyond your own capabilities. Always wear the appropriate safety gear.