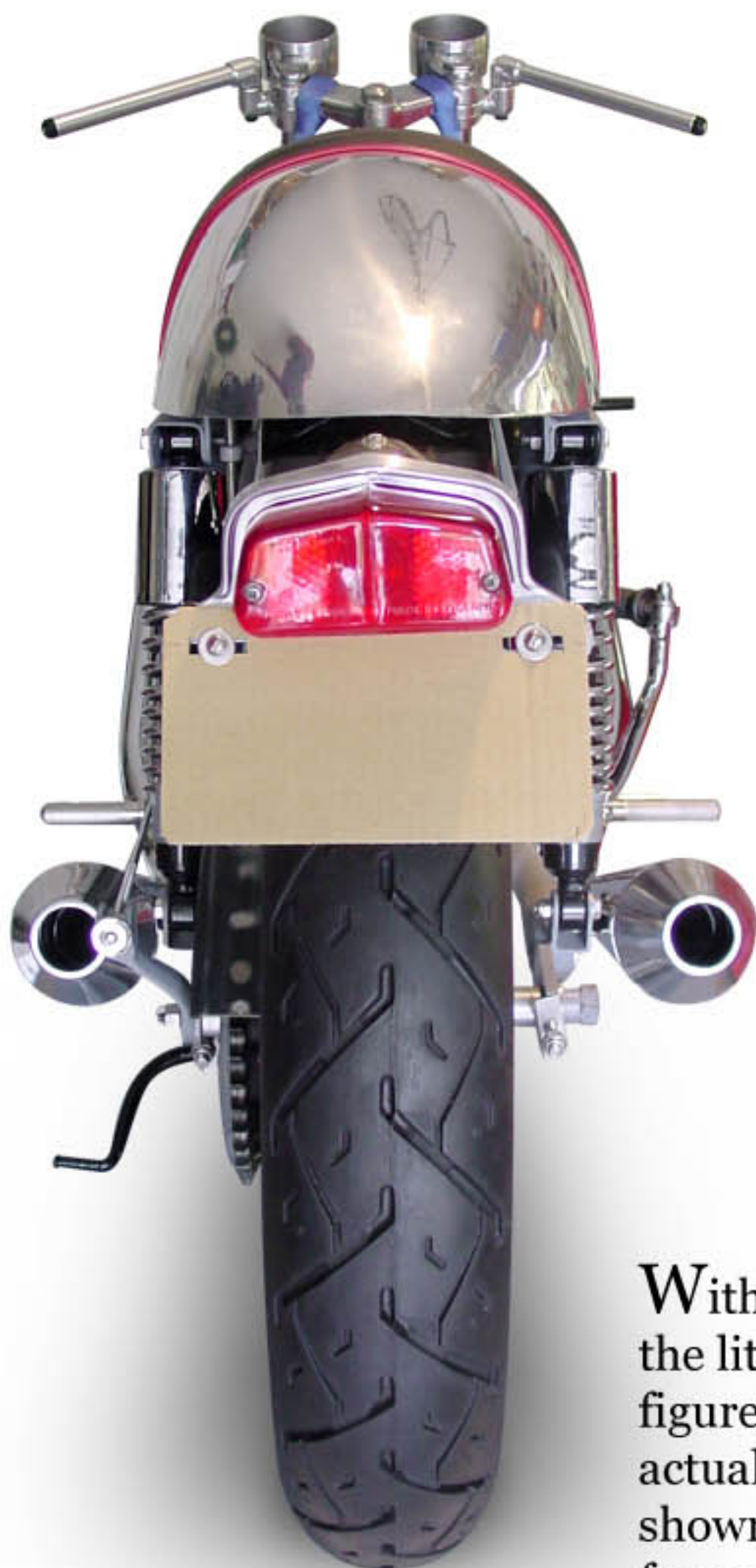


Building a Featherlastic Part VI



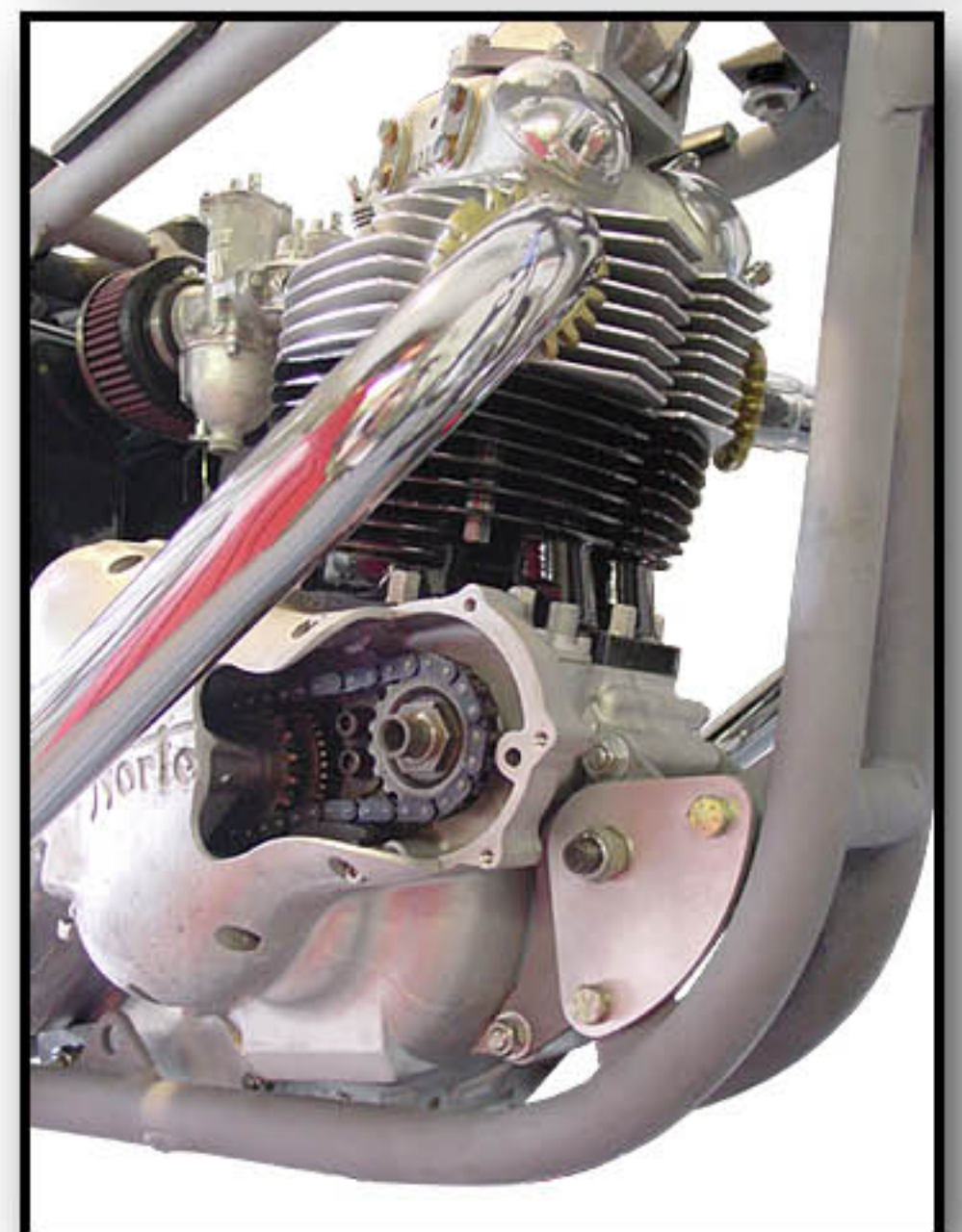
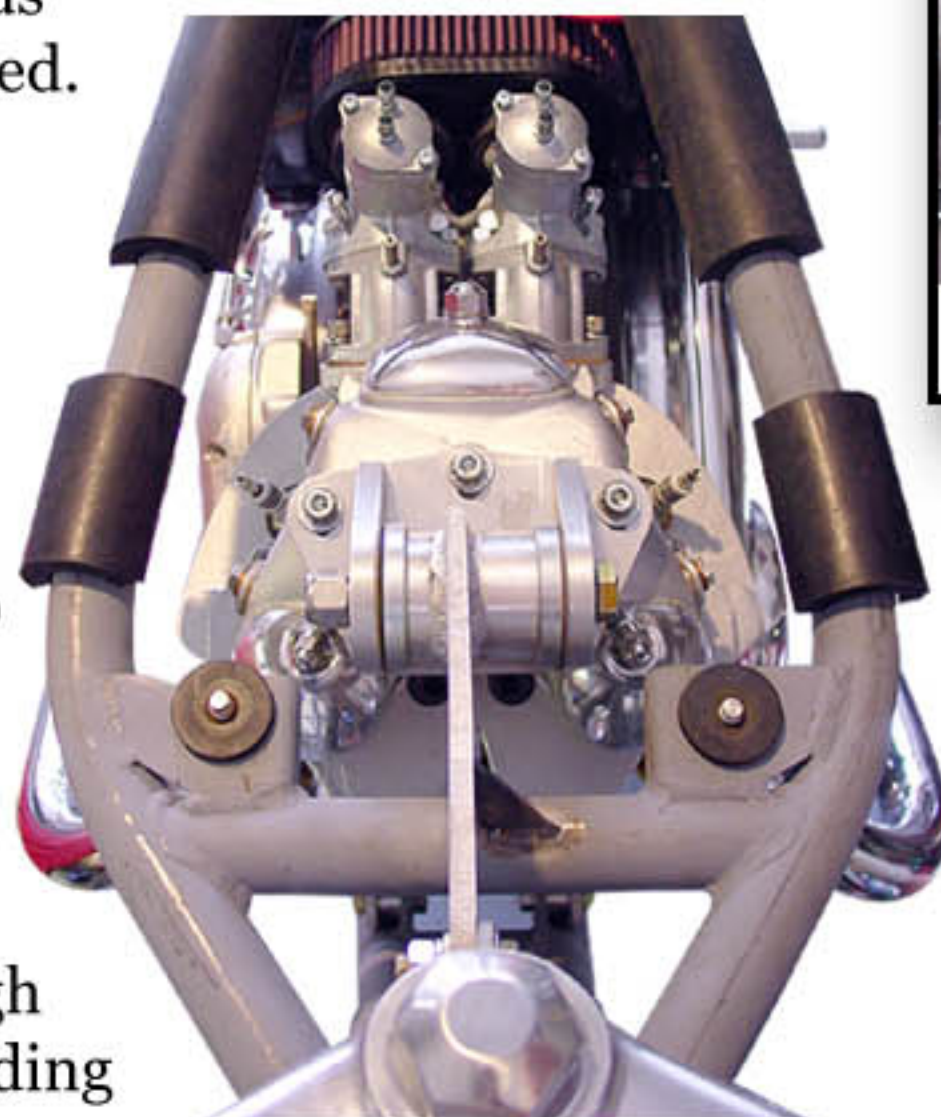
It's really starting to come together now that I have all of my main pieces. I went through rear fender wars - an undrilled Commando steel item purchased on ebay - too big. An alloy "Manx" style from Unity Equipe - too light, plus they bash a "Guinness Kiss" in the front to clear the rear engine mount. Nope. So back to RPM and a scrounge on Keith's Norton shelf. Viola! A perfect sized & shaped steel fender, made in England, and not too many drilled holes to weld up.

The front hub I sent to Central Wheel Components in England for lacing to a Morad (Akront mold) alloy shouldered WM3 rim. I also purchased a matching rear rim (WM4) and spoke kit. Lacing of the rear was done by Steve at RPM in the frame since the spacing was so critical - with a slight offset to the right.



With the wheels complete and all the little spacers, washers and seals figured out, I then mounted my actual engine. The timing cover shown is a cutaway item I made from a spare - a handy tool for setting cam chain tension precisely. I'm also using an automatic cam chain tensioner which just happened to be in the Combat motor I rebuilt. This is the same one you see advertised in classic bike publications. Very cool. The Combat motor seems right at home in the featherbed frame. Of course it is a first cousin not to mention the generous engine space offered up by the f'bed.

Another nice advantage of the featherbed frame is the access it gives you to the engine. The head drops right down between the rails and makes the tricky push-rod juggling act of the Commando frame a much easier process. And just look at the access to the carburetors, which are new Amal Mk I 32mm Concentrics from Norvil Motorcycles. I went through two alloy humped seats before finding



the right one (Unity Equipe). Of course it was designed for the wideline f'bed so I took my Dremel tool to it. A little TIG welding by Brink RaceCraft and now it fits the frame perfectly. In my next article I sort out all of those dang brackets./BC