

Building a *Featherlastic*

Part VIII

After getting over an urge to do a flame job (too much TV I reckon), I've decided to go with a blended scheme - a deep red that turns into black from top to bottom. I wanted the graphics to be different from the common thick black stripe with thin red pinstriping over silver (though I like that look). Yet I want the bike to have a classic look.

I began the process of digitally painting the key components of the bike by taking photos of the work in progress. This included taping a cool old "Unapproachable" decal, loaned to me by Phil Dansby, to the unpainted seat hump. Once I was happy with the Photoshop mockups I met with my painter, Jason Small, who then produced painted samples of two different red-to-black blends on a spare tank.



After the painting of the tank and hump blend, I cut out the Norton logo in a special "frisket" material and had Jason spray on the two part black. I was not happy with the decals available and decided that all graphics on the f'lastic would require hand painting. The intricacy of the "Featherlastic" script I had designed was far beyond my comfort zone with a brush not to mention the pin-striping itself, which I wanted to keep thin.

This is where Alton Gillespie comes in and the work he produces is pretty incredible. I provided him with the tank, hump and fenders, color sanded and ready to go, along with color prints of the tank and hump mockups shown here. I also created actual size clear transparencies of the Norton logo with "Featherlastic" script and taped them into position on each side of the tank.

Alton outlined the black Norton logos in gold and then meticulously brushed in the "Featherlastic" script. Maybe most amazing is his reproduction of the "Unapproachable Norton" decal on the hump, complete with tiny "reg. trademark" type. The beauty of Jason's prepping and paint blending, and Alton's handiwork was revealed with the final two part clear coats.

Airbrush mockup of tank over actual photo of the bike was done in Adobe Photoshop as was the seat hump at top right

