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Hottest XR1200 yet

- ▶ Harley roadster stripped-down and given superbike chassis upgrades
- ▶ Satanic themed paint ▶ Sands' one-off bike is best XR1200 special yet



Sands took just a month to complete the Harley cafe racer project

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Harley's 255kg XR1200 has been given its most extreme weight-loss treatment yet, and moulded into a sharpened cafe racer.

Taking just the engine and main frame from the XR1200 flat-track-inspired machine, American customiser Roland Sands took a month to complete the project from a brand new bike to finished one-off.

The XR is stripped back to the few essential parts – the subframe and seat unit are scrapped and replaced with a simple tubular support carrying a short hand-beaten aluminium tail unit, and only the rev counter remains from the stock instrument panel.

Small projector lights fitted into the front number board replace the headlight, and tiny LEDs fulfil brake/tail light duties.

Sands dumped the twin-sided swingarm, twin shock and belt-drive rear end fitted as standard, fitting his own tubular single-sided swingarm carrying a Ducati hub and connected to an Ohlins shock with a Ducati adjustable ride-height linkage. Chain drive is fitted too.

Ohlins forks replace the stock front end, and radial-mount Performance Machine calipers are fitted. The RSD XR1200



Simple tubular support with hand-beaten aluminium tail unit



2-1 header pipe with a Vance and Hines exhaust can is fitted



The standard Harley XR1200 looks lardy in comparison



XR1200 was stripped to a few bare essentials and given cafe racer clip-ons

also debuts a new wheel design from the firm – the five-spoke 'Turbo' rims have a 'Tuxedo' finish, which combines matt and gloss black detailing. Dunlop GP Racer tyres are fitted for grip levels worthy of a race bike.

Clip-on handlebars and rearsets replace the flat-track-style cow-horn bars and mid-mount pegs. The oil tank is incorporated into the aluminium belly pan, and a Vance and Hines exhaust can is fitted to a one-off 2-1 header pipe. With no silencing to speak of, you'll



The result is a simple machine with a load of attitude – a cafe racer with Sands' spin on it

MCN'S CHRIS NEWBIGGING

struggle to hear yourself speak. Instead of the obvious Harley orange race paint, Sands opted for a matt black scheme with a satanic RSD (Roland Sands Design) pentagram graphic on the tank, and 666 numbering. The frame is powder-coated in a charcoal finish.

The result is simple machine with a load of attitude – a cafe racer with Sands' own spin on it.

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