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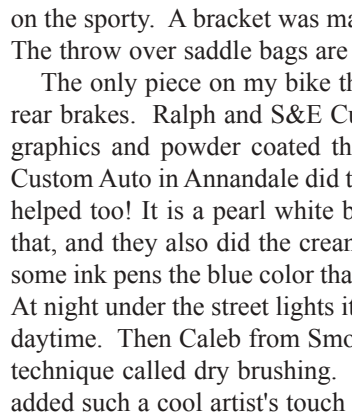
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You've all enjoyed Laura The Potter's monthly column, right? Well, we're going to let her show off her ride, she deserves it.

Laura the Potter

Pictures taken by Katy Friedman

I had a good base for this custom build. I bought MYBIKE in Oct. of 2000 – it is a 2001 Standard Sportster. Over the years a lot of money was dumped into it, drag bars, now my ape's (which I love) all the chrome anyone could ask for including the swing arm. So, Tom Holland, my boyfriend at the time, wanted to build me a gas tank last winter...and one thing led to another, and I can't say it's a different animal, but it's MYBIKE that has been thru a total make-over...and it looks Awesome! The gas tank now holds almost 4 1/2 gallons. I was on reserve for a ways, and put 245 miles on before I had to fuel up!!! The tank was built from a 2003 fuel injected Electra Glide Tank, The sending unit area of the tank was cut out, and a section of a rear Electra glide fender was narrowed and flipped upside down to create a dish in the top of the tank. A filler neck and cap from Pam Andersons old Sportster tank was welded into the concave area, this allowed room for the bottom of the speedo. The tear drop shape that holds the speedo



was made from using bottom portions of two shovel head tanks. There is also a 3/4" tube running thru the tank to allow for the speedo wires. Brackets were produced to adapt the larger tank to the narrower Sportster frame, and the frame was drilled and tapped for the rear mounting bracket.

The front fender was purchased after-market from Pauly at Hard Tails. The mounting holes were drilled and the shapes cut into the fenders by hand with an air pencil grinder. The rear fender is three rear Electra glide fenders that were sectioned together, and narrowed to fit the Sportster frame. Again, the shapes were cut by hand using the air pencil grinder.

The coil was mounted under the seat and aftermarket wires were made to accommodate the new length needed. At the same time the ignition switch was moved under the battery box (with some slight wiring and switch modifications). The aftermarket blinkers were wired in with a Badlander load controller (also mounted under the seat).

Forward controls were made "more forward" and extended out farther, because of the much wider gas tank by using modified highway peg extensions. Then simple threaded spacers were made to extend the brake and shifting rods.

The bike was lowered front and rear using progressive shocks for the rear and lowering kit for the front. It handles so much nicer now! Not near as top heavy. An aftermarket license plate bracket was purchased, but like everything else, didn't work well

on the sporty. A bracket was made to extend the license plate past the saddle bags. The throw over saddle bags are cut and bolted on.

The only piece on my bike that wasn't chromed was the master cylinder for the rear brakes. Ralph and S&E Custom Powder Coating matched my cream colored graphics and powder coated that for me. It's a nice little touch. Jim Vance of Custom Auto in Annandale did the finish body work on MYBIKE and paint. Jim Jr. helped too! It is a pearl white base with many coats of transparent blue on top of that, and they also did the cream colored graphics. The blue is so different! I had some ink pens the blue color that I wanted and left one with Jim, he got it just right! At night under the street lights it looks sapphire and a beautiful true blue during the daytime. Then Caleb from Smooth Customs in Becker accented those lines with a technique called dry brushing. He added two colors of green to the graphics. He added such a cool artist's touch and pulled it all together so nicely!

The speedo is hinged at the bottom and lifts up to gain access to the gas cap. The housing around the speedo would vibrate and the paint was chipping. So, I asked Casper's Leather to make me a gasket around the opening, and follow the tear drop shape down a bit.

That way the speedo rests on the leather while I'm fueling up. That was quite a challenge for her, and hey – its Casper's Leather!!!! Up for the challenge!!! Scott Berosik of Pro Art Custom Paint & Graphics mixed up some green and gave the leather a little dry brushing to match the graphics on the tank and WHALAA!!!! It looks so sweet!!!!!!! I have custom tear drop shaped mirrors from Kokesh, and a new kick stand from Cycle Works. My friend Gordy gave me a very nice chrome piece mounted at the top of my risers. Tom built his own gas tank for his Electra Glide – 7 gallons. And this was a first experience build for him. He did an OUTSTANDING job in my opinion. It was hard for me to wait as long as I did, but the wind is in my face now and it was so worth the wait! Thank you Tom – Thank you. I really LOVE MYBIKE!!!! My dream during this whole build was to have a tattoo on my lower back that matched the graphics on my bike...John at Good Clean Fun designed the graphics for my bike/my back.

