

# Streaming Air

BY TRICIA SZULEWSKI

**O**n a recent vacation at my dad's place in Pine Bush, New York, we took a day ride through the Mohonk Mountain area. I rode his decked-out 2002 Honda Gold Wing, while he was on his Honda Valkyrie, equally customized with enough chrome bling to blind innocent bystanders on a sunny day. While both bikes are fantastic rides, Dad likes the biggest windshields available. Myself, I like to feel the wind, especially on beautiful, hot, sunny days, like that one was. The only way to feel any breeze at all on the Wing was by standing on the footpegs, but even that was difficult, as his aftermarket windshield, fit for a giant, towers over my head.

After the ride, I explained my discomfort, and he showed me how to adjust the Baker Built Air Wings on his Valkyrie to redirect the air toward the rider. Dad says that he's had them on the bike for 10 years, and wouldn't consider keeping the bike without them, considering the amount of comfort they provide. They cool him on hot summer days, and help keep him warmer and drier in less than ideal weather conditions. The Gold Wing was equipped with another company's deflectors, which he claims are well-

designed to deflect air away, but aren't as good at bringing air toward the rider. I suggested we replace them with Air Wings with lowers and Hand Wings for better coverage, all from Baker Built.

Dad's style is quite different from my (more subtle) taste. His bikes are decked out with painted eagles, pinstriping, fringe, and etchings. Because the folks at Baker Built understand this diversity among bikers, they offer Air Wings in a variety of colors, and the option to have them engraved for a truly custom look (see sidebar). Dad wanted an etched eagle head to match the other designs on his ride, but in the end, I convinced him to go with the subtle, unengraved, light smoke Air Wings. With a choice between black or chrome mounting hardware, we decided chrome would match best.

Installation was quite simple,



1

**Baker Built protects each Air Wing with removable film, which prevents it from being scratched during shipment.**

and everything needed is included, up to the 1/2" drill bit for the holes in the molding trim. The directions were easy to follow and illustrated with small black and white pictures. Pausing to take notes and photographs, it took less than an hour to install both sets of Air Wings with lowers, and the Hand Wings. After the installation, Dad took the Gold Wing for a test ride and discovered that his highway pegs would need a little adjusting, as his shins hit the lowers. And one of the Air Wings needed a little tightening, as the wind moved it out of position. But after these simple adjustments were made, he reported that he had much better wind coverage than his previous setup.

Leg Wings and Foot Wings are also available from Baker Built, and I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if dad installs these before my next visit.



2

**For the Air Wings with lowers, first remove the stock trim molding and two screws.**



3

**Cut out the supplied template and fit it to the inside of the molding. Then punch out the centers of the two circles to locate the screw mount points.**

## ENGRAVING OPTIONS

**O**riginally a custom metal-fabrication company, Baker Built has developed a brand well suited to the motorcycle consumer who demands high quality while standing out from the crowd. For an additional nominal price, engraving is available on all its Wings, but is done before the final product-forming stage, so planning upfront is essential. Engravings can also be color-filled, which may help the image stand out, especially on darker shades of panels. The company offers more than 1,000 images to choose from, or custom designs can be ordered for a truly unique look. ■





4

Lay the molding trim over a wooden board, and use the supplied 1/2" drill bit to drill the two holes.



5

Place the shoulder spacers through the back of the trim molding.



6

Stretch rubber bands around spacers to keep them in place while reinstalling the trim molding. Remove the bands after the trim is back in place.



7

Install the mounting bracket using the supplied 5mm screws, snap cap inserts, and plastic washers; make sure the slight bend is at the top. The little rubber pieces on each end of the brace bar provide the stability for the Air Wings.



8

Install the Air Wing arm bracket to the mounting bracket with the remaining screws and snap cap inserts.



9

Once tightened (being careful not to overtighten), install four snap caps. Repeat on other side of the motorcycle.



10

For the Hand Wings, first remove the screw from the bottom of the mirror. Place one steel washer on top of the adapter bolt, and screw it into this thread.



11

Install the Hand Wing deflector, placing the various steel and plastic washers where indicated in the diagram provided.



12

Stick the rubber bumpers on the bike's fairing where the deflector makes contact.



13

Repeat on other side, check for tightness, and go for a test ride.

RB

### hard data

BAKER BUILT PRODUCTS

Light Smoke Hand Wings, \$53.95; Light Smoke Air Wings with Lowers, \$161.95

800/451-9464

www.BakerBuilt.com