

# Looking Ahead

BY STEVE LITA

If you're like me, you spend a lot of time sitting in your office at work. When it's clean and tidy, it's at least a little more enjoyable to be sitting at that desk. Well, the same goes for your bike: the handlebars, controls, mirrors, and grips are the office. It's where you spend all your time. Your bike is already more fun to be at than work, but sprucing it up makes it all the more enjoyable.

Our last bike build with Cruiser Customizing and Küryakyn (Showroom Star) proved so popular that we decided to do another. This time, we found a donor bike in need of an office renovation. This VTX1300 came courtesy of a CC customer, and labor was supplied by Kyle Bradshaw, the director of customer service at Cruiser Customizing. The VTX had bone-stock cockpit controls, and the upper triple clamp was the victim of an aggressive roll bag that chaffed and scarred the original finish. When sitting on the bike, the view from the passenger seat was not a pleasure. Luckily, Küryakyn and KewlMetal make trim and goodies to update the bike from grip to grip, and change the rider's expression from frown to grin.

The handlebars remained stock, but everything else got the makeover treatment: grips, bar ends, levers, switchgear, mirrors, and triple clamp — all available from the Cruiser Customizing catalog. The entire transformation took a mere couple of hours, and the results livened up the look and increased the value of the VTX. Safety was enhanced with the addition of the LED signal mirrors. They help let all the cagers know which direction you're going. And the KewlMetal locking bar ends add some security. There's a keyed lock cylinder and pin built into the outer end; it's a great place to secure a helmet. We'll be back next month with some more VTX upgrades and makeup, but until then, clean that office.



1

Everything needed to transform the cockpit of our VTX1300.



2

Remove the nuts holding the risers and have a buddy lift the bars straight up. You can sneak the new triple clamp chrome trim in place, and don't have to remove cables or hoses.



3

Replace the handlebar/riser assembly and tighten the fasteners.



4

These clean fork tube caps are held in place with a setscrew.



5

Wide-style levers are more comfortable to operate than skinny stock ones. Lube the clutch cable end before installing the new Küryakyn lever.



6

Remove the stock grip, loosen the clutch perch, slide it away slightly, and install the chrome switch cover. Then slide the clutch perch up against the new part and...



7 ...tighten the clutch perch in place.



8 Kuryakyn signal mirrors add safety and style. Run the wires along the stock harness into the headlight housing.



9 The throttle drum gets some brightwork, too.



10 Ingenious ministuds replace the stock Phillips head screws on the brake master cylinder. They hold the chrome master cover securely in place.



11 Grip cement is applied to keep the grips in place once installed. Work quickly to align the ISO grips.



12 The KewlMetal bar ends attach to the ISO grips with supplied screws. They incorporate a keyed lock pin so you can secure your helmet.



13 Remove the headlight and tap the mirror wires into the stock signal light harness.



13 The cockpit is brighter, cleaner, and looks better than new. **RB**

### hard data

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