



# CAFÉ PURITY: JOE ANANIA'S DUCATI 250 MONZA

BY TIM KESSEL

## Highlights of the Build:

- Full Engine Rebuild
- Custom Exhaust
- Aircraft Style Oil Fill Port
- Custom Aluminum Side Covers (with Italian Flag)
- Custom Fenders and Lights
- Custom Rear-sets
- Custom Gauges and Levers
- Custom Wheels and Brakes



Many custom bike builders aren't so much "builders" as they are "assemblers." Modern café racers often tend to be an amalgamation of aftermarket bolt-on parts, outsourced engines, and even frame and bodywork kits. In my humble opinion, those bikes, while attractive and functional, are missing the essence of the café racer.

In my mind, the essence of a true café racer is a combination of individuality, purity and uniqueness. Those attributes are best achieved when a café project is the product of a single creative mind and the attached pair of hands. This is why having a conversation with custom bike builder Joseph Anania was so refreshing.

Joe's custom bikes are pure, simple and beautiful products of his creative mind. So what does he want from one of his bikes? "My philosophy is make it clean and make parts no one else has fabricated." Joe told me that building a great bike should not be a product of "throwing loads of money at it." He continued that he has an aversion to "chrome bling and wild paint jobs." For Joe, the essence of a great custom build is, "most importantly attention to detail both seen and unseen."

In keeping with the purity of his view of the café building process, Joe does virtually everything in-house. Joe's shop creates all custom parts. He also does the engine rebuild, wheel building, welding, machining, fabrication work and most painting. In fact, the only things done outside the shop are plating and powder coating.



Joe spent most of his working life in the airline industry as a lead aircraft technician.

While his vocation was building and maintaining jets that traveled at supersonic speeds, his heart was set on classic motorcycles. It seems the "ton" (100 mph) milestone of a café racer is as thrilling to Joe as the Mach speed of the aircrafts he built.



This leads us to the beautiful Ducati Monza café creation. Joe bought two Monza basket cases for \$800. He sold the parts he didn't need for \$900. Now that's the way a café project should start! Six months after starting the project, the silver and blue Italian vision was complete. Apparently I'm not the only one who loves the end result - the Monza took home first place honors at last year's Mid-Ohio Vintage Days.

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Remember Joe's comment about "attention to detail"? The '66 Duc is the embodiment of this philosophy. The details are all about quality, not flash. The Monza is essential not excessive. More than most other modern café builders I have found, Joe Anania gets it. He has tapped into what is best about the café mystique.