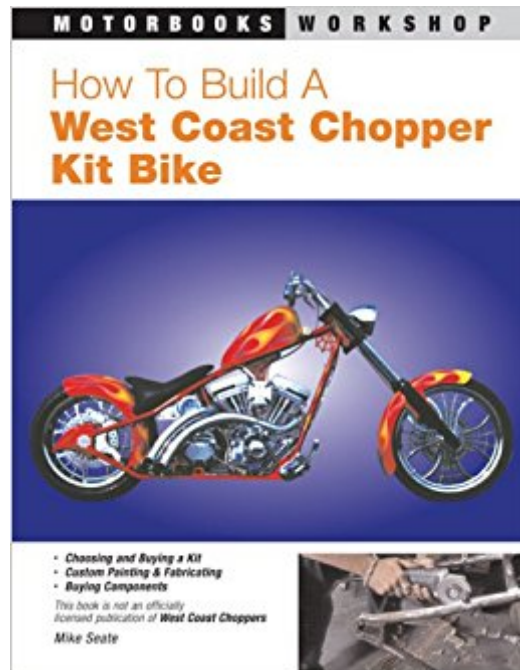




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# How To Build A West Coast Chopper Kit Bike (Motorbooks Workshop)



## Synopsis

This book presents a step-by-step guide to building a West Coast Chopper's C.F.L. kit. Kit choppers are hot commodities. While few people can afford to buy a custom-built chopper from one of the high-end builders like Jesse James-bikes that often sell for \$100,000 or more-many can afford to buy such bikes in kit form. Because of this, all the high-end builders sell their creations in kit form. For example, while Jesse James might build perhaps a dozen custom bikes per year, he sells hundreds of chopper kits. The same is true of any number of other builders like Matt Hotch, Cyril Huze, and Paul Yaffe. Authored by Mike Seate and featuring the photography of Joe Appel, this book is a step-by-step how-to guide for anyone building a kit chopper.

## Book Information

Series: Motorbooks Workshop

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## Customer Reviews

Mike Seate is a journalist living in Pittsburgh, PA. He began riding motorcycles at the age of 16, and 26 years later, has still not bothered to learn how to drive a car. His columns on city living appear three times each week in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and he has written hundreds of feature stories and opinion columns for motorcycle enthusiast publications, including Cycle World, Motorcyclist, Super Streetbike, Street and Strip, Classic Bike, Motorcycle News, Long Riders, and IronWorks. Mike has written a number of books, including Choppers: Heavy Metal Art, Technochop, How to Build a West Coast Chopper, Outlaw Choppers, Jesse James: The Man and His Machines, Suzuki GSX-R, Choppers, Streetbike Extreme, and Two Wheels on Two Reels.

Bought for my husband, he loves it and reads it all the time! I can't really comment on the content as my husband is the one who reads it.

Great condition!

This is another book that my son who was stationed in Afghanistan really enjoyed. The book gave him a dream. Something I think you need in a situation like he was in. He has been working on his own chopper since he returned home! Great~

This book was ordered for my son who is incarcerated. I am sure he will enjoy it. Thanks, Ruth

If you are building a kit bike using a WCC frame there is some useful information here.

Is having a WCC frame REALLY that important to you? Ready to spend \$35,000+ on a WCC replica??? This book implies that it will show you how to build a WCC clone. First, the title is misleading. The guy doesn't build a WCC "kit bike" (WCC NEVER offered a "kit bike")...he PIECES a VERY EXPENSIVE (about \$34,000 in parts) "home-built" WCC together by buying a genuine WCC frame from the Custom Chrome catalog along with some WCC parts (tank, fenders, Magnum 44 handlebar risers) directly from the now defunct WCC Long Beach shop, and some non-WCC parts from various vendors (an El Bruto motor, a Perse fork assembly, Weld wheels, etc). Furthermore, the guy doing the build is a professional builder doing the build in his shop. If you've NEVER built an MC and buy this book thinking it will walk you through the entire process, including all the intricate details, then be prepared to get totally frustrated when you run into problems and don't have a CLUE on what to do next. In plain English: if you have NEVER built a bike before and plan to use this book as a how-to assembly manual for building your own WCC replica, DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK. Again, this is NOT a step-by-step assembly manual; it's really nothing more than a general overview. A summary. As a result, the bike building process is glossed over VERY quickly & simply. There is no "meat." Can you say "broad brush-stroke"? The author implies that "how-to" instructions are included with the various parts (i.e. fork, tranny, primary drive, etc) and therefore, does not cover any part of the assembly process with any depth. It only gives you the big picture with very little/no detail. For example, he says getting a wiring harness makes doing the electrical connections much easier, and if you get stuck, take the bike to an H-D dealer! How's that for

"how-to"??? Bottomline: All this book is really saying, is that if you want a WCC but can't afford to buy the real McCoy, piece a replica together yourself from the Custom Chrome catalog for about a third of what a "real" one would cost you. If you really want to build your own MC but never put one together, forget the WCC hype & go buy a (generic) "bike in a box"...A bike-in-a-box has EVERYTHING but paint & gas already selected & boxed up for you. Bike-in-a-box is a true "kit bike" and most typically come with assembly instructions. It won't be a WCC clone, but who cares? Google "bike-in-a-box". Then pick a model you like, fork over the 15 grand or so, follow the bike-in-a-box assembly instructions, and build your own MC! On the other hand, if you simply like choppers & reading about them, this is an enjoyable read-only-for-pleasure book.

This book is not a how to, it's a 143 pages of telling you that you should only buy West Coast Choppers parts and a list of other high dollar parts from suppliers. It tells a little about paint prep, but nothing about the things a person will encounter building a bike. Nothing what so ever, read this and you will think lay the parts on the floor and they will just jump into one piece. Wow, this is BS! Watch the bike build shows on TV and get 100 times more info. This was publish to take advantage of the jump on the Jesse train. I would love to hear his true thoughts. Don't waste your money.

I've built choppers from scratch, and I've built a chopper kit bike. Both projects would have been much more successful had I had a book like this. This is a useful book whether you are building a kit bike from Jesse James or if you are building any other kit, or even if you are building a chopper from scratch. there is tons of useful information here, and the photos show you how not to make a lot of the mistakes I made.

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