

Atomic Zombie™ Extreme Machines

Build it yourself bikes, recumbents, trikes, tandems, choppers and more.



July 11, 2011

AZ newsletters



And so it begins!

By Radical Brad, July 11, 2011



Figure 1 - A well worn path leads from our camper to my new temporary garage

My new “garage” is just an abandoned construction trailer with no windows or doors, but it is located only 200 feet from our building site and now has power thanks to a bunch of extension cords strung together.

I have been up and down the hill from the camper to the old trailer so many times now that a trail has been carved into the hillside. No doubt, I will be getting my exercise when it comes time to weld since the welder is located up the hill, 200 feet away due to the location of the temporary hydro service!

I guess I will need to keep my projects to those I can easily carry uphill, so no massive multi-rider trikes

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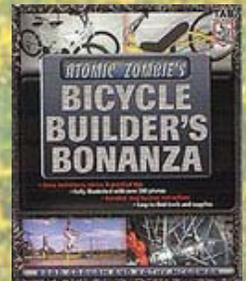
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and quads will be build this year.

Figure 2 - It may be cramped and hot, but it's better than nothing!

In our last garage, I had a 16 foot by 4 foot workbench and 580 square feet of space on a nice flat concrete pad, so moving into an 8 foot by 8 foot soggy room with a 2 foot square workbench means that I will have to really plan my building process carefully since a frame will have to hand out of the open door when I work on it!

Hey, I'm not complaining, just making light of my current working conditions!

I have always preached that you don't need much to get into this hobby, and I am going to prove it this year!!

You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?

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Figure 3 - Flip-flops, swim trunks, and hot sparks - ouch!

You better believe it! I am going to battle with only a basic AC welder, one handheld angle grinder, one hand held drill, some wrenches, a pile of scrap bikes, and an entire book full of cool ideas to make real.



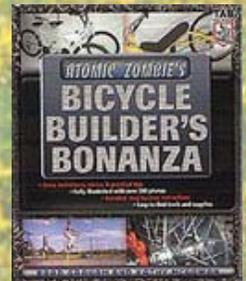
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The thermometer in my “workshop” is reading 110 C today, and the sun isn’t even overhead, so I am going to be put through the trials over the next few months.



Figure 4 - 200 feet away from my workshop lives my AC welder

We have winters here that can send an Eskimo running for cover, so I actually welcome the blistering dog days of summer. Of course, 120 degrees in an 8 foot by 8 foot room is a bit much even for my Northern hide to handle so I have been doing most grinder work in the open field just outside of the old construction trailer. For those who do not already know - grinder sparks are not compatible with flip-flops and swim trunks, so you must aim carefully or get stung!

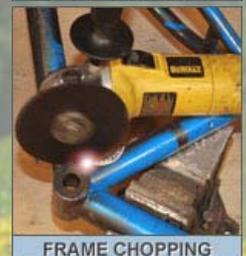
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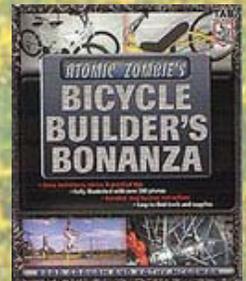
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Hey look... I'm an official "redneck" now!

Yes, indeed, I am standing at the base of a hill in a dirty sleeveless shirt, colorful swim trunks, using an angle grinder while wearing flip-flops! To the odd passer-by that drives down the country road near our property, I must fit the description of redneck perfectly now. Hmm...that sure didn't take long.

So, once I have done the cutting and grinding work down in the old construction trailer, it's just a matter of hauling the work up a 200 foot hill to the middle of the field where my welder now lives. We have a temporary electrical panel in the center of our main yard, and I just installed a 40 amp breaker and plug for my AC welding box. I didn't even want to know how much it would cost for the wire to run down to the construction trailer, so I just made a simple sun shelter out of plywood so I could do the welding right there.



Figure 5 - A new trike is being born from the relics of the past.

weld!

Believe it or not, for the first 4 years of AtomicZombie life, I had my welder "MacGyvered" to a stove outlet and had to do all of my welding on the ground behind our city home. I build many bikes and trikes this way, including the original Marauder, DeltaWolf, and even the World Record SkyCycle. At least this time I had a board over my head to keep from roasting in the sun! If we can afford to put up

This won't be the first time I had to kneel in the dirt to

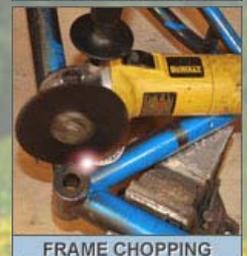
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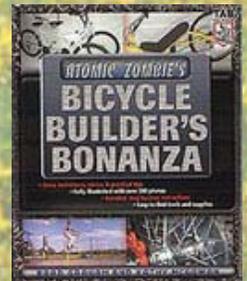
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a real garage next year, it's going to be such a treat to move indoors, kinda like hitting yourself in the head with a hammer because it feels so good when you stop? Hmm.

Ok, I am done whining about my current working conditions, and it is time to concentrate on making 2011 a great year for AtomicZombie plans. Lurking in one of the rooms of the old construction trailer is a fusion between the [DeltaRunner](#) and the original [DeltaWolf](#).

A new Delta Trike called the TimberWolf is being born to address the rough country roads and long distances I will now have to traverse to ride to the nearest corner store. This new trike will feature a higher seat than the DeltaWolf, but include such things as rear suspension, a small cargo box, room for a motor, and will retain much of the sporty look and agility of the original DeltaWolf Racing Trike.

If all goes well, I may have the TimberWolf completed by the middle of July and look forward to sharing the amazing scenery of what will be out new home for 2011.

So, get your grinders out, make the sparks fly, and for those who are cooking out in the mid-day sun...I feel your pain!

~ Brad



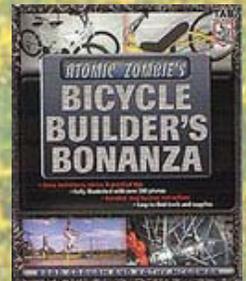
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