

**HR** HOT ROD | FEATURED**High-Speed Helmet — Bohata Design's "Medieval One" Hot Rod**

Written by Phillip Thomas on April 25, 2017

When your fabricator says, “Just trust me, I’ve got the perfect project for you—but you can’t see it until I’m done,” it’s usually something unique and off-the-wall. Bohata Design Inc., out of Long Island, New York, is about as off-the-wall as it gets. If you need a 75-pound, fully functioning tattoo machine (with a giant needle and solenoid), AJ Bohata’s your man. If you own a waste-management company, he’ll build you a one-off, radio-controlled, BBQ-grill-carrying trash truck for tailgate parties. And if you’ve got a little bit of a knight’s spirit in you, he’ll build you this: Medieval One.



The chassis is laser cut from 2x4x3/16-wall rectangular tubing, jugged up and TIG-welded in-house. Up front, Medieval One uses a traditional drop axle with radius rods and a transverse monoleaf, while the rear axle uses air-ride suspension with stainless-steel axes flanking the wishbones.

Beyond that, nothing is conventional about Medieval One: The wheel centers were designed by Bohata before being water-jetted and welded to blank wheel barrels. Each header is made up of nearly 900 scales, laser cut before being shaped en masse with custom die and a lot of tedious hammering. Once the scales were formed, all 1,800 were tiggged together to create a pair of CO2 fog-spewing snakes, which hang from the Weiand 6-71 supercharged, 355ci small-block. Bohata also created a one-off accessory drive that mounts the power steering, air conditioning, and alternator low in the chassis, which keeps all eyes on the tower of power with its meat-slicing blower pulley and medieval crest air cleaner.

The helmet is a re-skinned propane tank, using 1/16-inch steel to save weight (curb weight is around 3,600 pounds) while also incorporating the changes needed to create a knight’s helmet. Mounts were built for the hydraulic actuators and a helicopter-like interior was built so everything could be contained behind the articulated face shield (which doubles as the door). Pertinent info (oil pressure, water temp) is kept on the swing-out steering column, while an overhead panel contains controls for the air conditioning, lights, and more. The fabricated face shield not only looks ready for battle but Bohata even used automotive safety glass so it’ll handle hordes of road-ragers. Out back, what looks like a 15th-century rocket is actually a massive CO2 cannon—mostly for show.

Being the hard-knock fabricator that Bohata is, practically everything was built from scratch. What few things his small Long Island shop couldn’t handle (mostly fitting CNC, laser-cut, and water-jet machines under the roof) are unequivocally outweighed by what he and his son churned out. There are hundreds of hand-hammered rivets, acres of English Wheeled steel panels, and enough stainless weaponry onboard to settle any road-rage disagreement you can imagine.

Which could happen, as Bohata made sure Medieval One earned those yellow New York plates. Now the car (if that’s the right word to use) resides with its new owner in Florida, who calls up Bohata every so often when he finds some new steel detail or medieval weapon that he hadn’t noticed before.



Starting as a re-skinned propane tank, Bohata designed the face shield and exterior himself. Hydraulic rams lift the mask, while the helicopter-like steering column swings out of the way for easy access to the seats.



The canon is for show (for now), blasting CO2 clouds at crowds with no harm.



The rear tire is a 26x10.5-inch Mickey Thompson.



Two 20-gallon fuel cells flank the helmet, giving this knight plenty of range.



Each header is comprised of nearly 900 TIG-welded scales and also features CO2 blasters for local shows.



Behind the water-jet-cut swords and middle-ages-proof grille sits a compact radiator and evaporator—yes, the Medieval One has Vintage Air a/c!

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