



top left: Stephen from Brooklyn is the first of the R1 riders to arrive in Winthrop Square closely followed by Yatica, Prentice, Chaz (pictured-first fixed) and others. R1 Group photo. **middle-left:** Tyler photographing a model in Indy Fab's photo studio. **lower left:** Titanium frame section awaits carbon tubing at Independent. **below:** Marty at Geekhouse makes his head badges one at a time, no two are the same.



headset with a clean air supply. Titanium's molecules go wonky and weaken in the welding process. Independent ships the completed frames to a Boston based aerospace company, realigning the titanium molecules and strengthening the tubing. Once assembled, the frameset, now coupled with the fork gets sent to paint-also done in house. Paintjobs can run from a simple single color to multi-hued works of art. Ten scant feet away from the paint area and nearly next to the main entry, the finished bicycles are lovingly wrapped, boxed, and sent out. Gleaming, rolling sculpture is created by less than a dozen people in an area comprised of around five thousand square feet. From stately cruisers to sleek track frames, if you have the gold, Independent Fabrications will make the bike for you, and you alone.

Taking a ride to Lower Allston's neighborhood during a break in the rain, COG gets the tour of Geekhouse Bikes. Marty creates bespoke bicycles as well. Geekhouse frames are built by Marty, with assistance from Joe. They are young, and rabid about cycling. Geekhouse's workshop is a tight blue-hued rectangle barely breaking one thousand square feet. Stuffed into this space sits a half dozen milling machines, a foot thick slab of metal jig and a hulking CNC machine. Behind a door is Geekhouse's claustrophobic paint area-the sandblasting unit and drying oven take up most of the space. Joe does much of the powder coating, chuckling as he recalls the last time he did a white frame, and what blue will do to one's snot. Marty TIG welds steel frames smoothly, and had lucked out obtaining dead stock S-curved True Temper Aero seat tubing. This tubing gives Geekhouse frames a sexy as hell curve, and I was hooked. Everyone was. Sadly, Marty just assembled the last remaining tube to a frameset, and is hounding True Temper to reproduce the stuff. COG hopes he can get more of it. After the powder coat, Geekhouse bikes are finished off with a bright brass head badge, each one



Lucas Brunelle

Interview and photo by Peter DiAntoni

If you've ever attended the Bicycle Film Festival, chances are you've been witness to what Lucas sees as he sprints through the traffic laden cities of the world on his Lamborghini bicycle. You could almost say he's a pioneer of this genre as he started out filming alleycats back in 2001, four years before the launch of YouTube.

We visited Lucas at his Beacon Hill storefront during the Boston NACCC race when the shop was temporarily taken over as a race checkpoint.

You've done a lot of travelling with your helmetcam.

Oh yeah. This year eight different countries, twelve different cities, last year it was something comparable, so yeah.

Do any experiences stand out?

Yeah, actually, there's... for the helmet cam there was Panama, which was lots of fun. And then there was, let's see... there was the ride from Paris to Eindhoven which Austin and I did. We did a lot of it off-road and through countryside that was unbelievable. We ran into the most amazing people. And then there was the ride from Copenhagen to Berlin. That was another place where we saw stuff off-road that was just amazing. And let me think. Mexico was a lot of fun, doing the global warming alley cat. And riding around there with the Mexican bike messengers.

I saw the video you made in Mexico riding on an expressway, is that legal there?

Everything is kind of accepted there. Whether it's legal or not, you can do whatever. You know, I had to actually get to another part of the city very fast and I had my helmet camera and so I turned it on and well, some of the best shots are just unintentional.

When I get on highways I go as fast as I can and pass cars and then when traffic gets too fast I skitch and just grab onto a car and go highway speed.

You have a Lamborghini bicycle? I've never seen one of those.

Probably never will, either, because it's Trek underneath and I painted it, tricked it out. I have to kind of mess with everything I get, if you know what I mean.

It is a replica of the 1987 Countach which I drove for a while when I was in LA, during the dotcom boom. I can't believe how much better it is being on a bike.

What would you say is the most difficult city to ride in?

That's an interesting question. Well, in terms of the hills, I would say Seattle. In terms of people being jerks, I might say... it's kind of a toss-up between Detroit and Las Vegas.

Then, in terms of trying to film, I don't know, maybe it was Tokyo, until I met up with Shino. It's an amazing city to film, but it's very tricky as to where to go, because there's so many things that you can just... because the buildings are so tall, it's not even like New York, it's so huge. It's like an advanced version of that.

Anything else, any tips of advice, filming in traffic or otherwise?

Well, I can say this: a lot of people look at this type of riding as very dangerous, very risky. We don't base - we as in people who ride like this routinely - don't base this on luck, we base this on skill, on our judgement and what we do at intersections and such. I've trained medical personnel, police, you name it, all kinds of people, maneuvers through traffic. And when you do it this much, you get very good at it and very in tune, kind of a heightened sense, an alertness of the world around you. It's very cool, and I could probably write a book on all the different strategies for going through traffic at that speed.

And your choice of music for your videos...

Oh, yes. That kind goes back to my love of the '80s and of things from the '80s, the Lamborghinis and Rubik's Cubes and things that I kind of grew up around. Michael Jackson, whatever. But anyways, the choice of music is kind of the choice of tempo for my life that I like to run at. Everything being very fast, very fun, funny, aggressive. Not confrontational but super adrenaline rush, every day.

Thank you, Lucas.

Yeah, absolutely.

That's what it's about, man.

Lucas' website: <http://www.digave.com>