



To be precise, it's a 1969 BMW R69S and Mimi has owned it since way back in 1978. It was in typical '70s chopper style then – all long forks and purple metalflake 'cos that's the way Mimi built it. Then, in '82, he gave it another revamp with a very smooth clean custom style, deep flawless wine-re paint and very shiny chrome, and it stayed neat and clean despite thousands of miles right up to '93 when an accident forced yet another rebuild. This time around I guess Mimi had maybe had enough of keeping a super-shiny bike on the road because he's settled for shorter forks and several coats of rattle-can grey primer. Yay! This is the point about bike building – a good bike is defined by its silhouette, not its intricate details, and any builder worth his grinder discs knows it's crucial to get the profile right before you even think about paint and chrome. So, even in flat paint, the Beemer just sits so well. Part of it is because of Mimi's clever use of the exhausts to create an eyeline – with BMW frame dimensions well recognised in Germany, the authorities would soon spot any alterations to the rake or steering head height so, limited by the legalities of a stock frame, Mimi has dropped the rear end on the shocks and then run the bottom line of the exhausts horizontally, close to the ground, to create the optical illusion that the bike is much lower and more level than it actually is. Cool.

But the primer blow-job also creates attitude in spades – the bike just looks so tough, solid and dependable. And since Mimi has ridden it around Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden and the States its looks are backed up by practicality. Fancy a long ride? No problem, just throw the saddlebags over the back end, bungee a bedroll across the top yoke and who cares if the paint gets rubbed away or scuffed over the years? Yet there's still some alloy to polish, if you ever do fancy it on some mad whim ...

But, for all that casual approach, the bike doesn't show any signs of neglect – on the contrary, the little details are the mark of a caring and cool owner. So while the yellow in

Bavarian Beemer

WORDS & PIX: ODGIE

Despite the propensity of H-Ds amongst the Bavarian Bobber Crew (as regular readers will have noticed), not everyone plumps for Milwaukee's finest. This is Mimi's BMW and ain't it yet another well groovy German bike?

