



"I want a gooseneck frame and a single down tube". The instructions from the slender-built owner of this bike could not have been simpler. Hailing from Ishikawa Prefecture, "Upper" was the first biker from the Hokuriku area to take part in the Cool Breaker custom show in Yokohama. The builder of this bike, Ishikawa, created the basic design for this machine in his head, starting with the choice of tires. He settled for 19" front and 18" rear Firestone tires, as these would provide him with the height he wanted. He shortened the front leg of the springer forks by one inch to achieve the correct angle on the rockers, then began work on the frame which forms the main characteristic of this bike. Starting with a Panhead with few standard parts, he created the S-shaped single downtube, adjusting the fork trail through the neck angle. In order to stress the shape of the frame, he mounted the gas tank below the top tube, thereby achieving a single flowing line from the neck, through the top tube and into the fender. "I worked on the image of an animal skeleton, from the backbone down through the tail". The area around the rear axle utilizes standard parts and the seat post has been lowered 1-1/2", the seat rail being bent to create a beautiful straight line. The bottom of the standard oil tank has been cut down to fit the frame. The split gas tank was constructed first and then the top pipe was carefully bent and welded in line with the right hand side. Ishikawa believes that rear fender supports ruin the lines of a bike so fender was made to divide under

the seat and is fixed at four points. The taillight was adapted from a '39 Ford lens. All unnecessary parts have been removed and the skeleton of this bike brings to mind the image of a carnivore feline.

Often said to be the most beautiful engine configuration for use in a chopper, the Panhead engine has been rebuilt to standard size, but converted to twelve volts and has a Knuckle-type brass carb cover. The pipes have been designed to balance with the overall shape and to stress the length of the machine. The peg mounts, the advance lever and hand shifter have been drilled and share a similar design. All that remained was to choose the style of handlebar and the bike was complete.

The original concept for the paintwork was suggested by an artist friend, Shuji Maeda. Based on a traditional "lightning" pattern, it was carried out using candy gold, black and gunmetal grey. The painting by Stingray Hearts stresses the basic skeleton concept. Named "Woman of Bliss", this bike is the best custom machine Ishikawa has built to date.