



**“Hit the
road Jack”**

At first glance, Jacek Czyżewicz looks like any other guy; by day, he develops and designs refuse collection vehicles for the ZOELLER Group in the Polish village of Rekowo Górne, near Gdańsk. But a closer look reveals a different story. This young engineer became a living legend in the custom bike scene – under the pseudonym of Jack Watkins – after building his own motorbike: the **Watkins M001**.



Watkins M001

The Watkins M001 is a futuristic piece of engineering: A naked bike stripped back to bare metal, based on a BMW R1150 RT. Nine years ago, when Jack first saw the legendary BMW Harrier built by Stellan Egeland, he knew that he would one day build his own motorbike too. The process would put his knowledge and his burning curiosity to the test.

The design, engineering and construction of the customised bike was all done by hand. As part of the team at one of the world's largest vehicle manufacturers, Jack's industry contacts were invaluable in helping him bring his vision to life and finding the right partners for his project. The back end of the bike is laser-cut, and Jack obtained expert design and engineering advice from Moto Spec. There's little remaining of the original BMW on which the bike is based. Jack kept the components he wanted and remained constantly on the lookout for parts, finding much of what he needed on eBay. The shock absorbers are taken from the BMW R1150, but the rear wheel comes from a BMW GS; the front wheel was originally fitted to a Yamaha XJ6. Jack also took



parts from a Moto Guzzi V750. The bike has more than 300 handmade components, a third of which can be found in the front suspension alone. This feat of engineering purrs away at 95 hp. Hour by hour, month by month, year by year, Jack worked passionately on his dream. This passion and persistence would ultimately be the key ingredient for his success. After four years – involving numerous dead-ends, hundreds of discarded drawings and countless dismissed ideas – the Watkins M001 made its maiden journey.

These days, the engineer and his "baby" are well-known on the motorcycle scene. Just like in Ray Charles' famous song, Jack and the Watkins M001 now regularly "hit the road" to feature at shows and fairs across the world. The inventor is modest about his achievements, and a friend had to convince him that his bike was worthy of being shown off to a larger audience. And he was proven right: The Watkins was a magnet for visitors at the prestigious Bike Shed London 2018 show. The unique motorbike has also been displayed at two of the largest shows on the Polish motorcycle scene. Jack is now

working on getting his bike certified as road-legal. The ZOELLER team is also impressed by the bike and Jack's achievements. Rainer Rohler, Managing Director at ZOELLER TECH, is full of praise for Jack: "I've never known anyone be as committed and passionate about his projects as Jacek. I'm incredibly proud to have such a great engineer in our team". The Watkins M001 will not remain an only child: Various enhancements to the development process and driving performance will be incorporated into a Watkins M002 at some point in the future. But Jack is keen to take his time. "I've got plenty of time to explore all avenues and make sure my curiosity is fully satisfied. I want to enjoy the process just like I did the first time", says Jacek – aka Jack – with a smile.

Has Jack's story sparked your curiosity? Find out more on his website:

Watkins.pl

Author: Claudia Schaeue