

OSET Philosophy & History

The Inspiration:

The formation of OSET CORP and the development of OSET electric dirt bikes were inspired by young Oliver Smith, son of OSET founder Ian Smith. At the age of 6 months Oliver was already obsessed with bikes. This was helped by the fact that one of Ian's (Dad's) businesses was producing Motorcycle Trials DVD's and the other a business providing back issues and article reprints to Motorcyclists. Oliver watched the DVDs constantly, and played with toy bikes all day long. It was clear that Oliver would want his own bike at the earliest opportunity.

As Oliver got older, the obsession continued. Ian didn't want to wait until he was 5 or 6 or 7 to get a bike, and, looking at the marketplace, didn't find any of the bikes suitable. Putting a kid on a 100lb+ bike with terrible suspension, no power and a hot exhaust didn't seem too appealing, so the cogs started turning in Ian's brain.

The Beginning:

Ian came up with the concept of an electric Trials bike, and started looking around at electric scooters and such. He speculated that you could take an electric scooter and modify it into a tiny Trials bike. Ian spoke to Mike Buchholz, a fellow Trials rider and a retired engineer. Mike thought that it might just work, and agreed to make the bike!

The resulting bike was completed when Oliver was 3 years 3 months old. Oliver rode the bike, standing up and in control on his very first day. 1 week later, he rode his first Trials competition!

Ian and Mike fiddled and modified this first bike constantly. One thing was very clear... this bike really did work! At this point, they knew they were on to something! That something turned into what is now OSET Electric Trials Bikes.



The Benefits:

There are a lot of problems with the traditional approach to bikes for kids. By using gasoline, you immediately severely limit the locations the bikes can be ridden. Gasoline bikes are loud in any scenario outside of designated riding areas. Unless you're one of the lucky few, the backyard is out of the question. Even if you are fortunate enough to have a riding area outside your back door (away from any neighbors), the effort involved in having your child ride is often too much. OSETs on the other hand, make virtually no noise, so definitely CAN be used in the backyard. The neighbors will be very impressed!

From experience we know that taking a young kid riding on a gas bike is a major chore. First, there's transport to the riding area. Next up is prepping the bike, filling with fuel etc. Then, the parent usually has to start the bike. The child then rides around in some big circles, but stalls or falls off in the spot furthest away. The kid then needs help to pick the bike up, restart it etc. Hopefully the rider has escaped being burned by the exhaust or had fuel spill out onto them.

As well as all this, the gas bikes are really too heavy. It's a losing battle for the kids. A 4 or 5 year old weighing 40lbs on a 100lb+ bike is a bad ratio. This doesn't get much better until the child reaches their late teens. The kids get bigger, but the bikes get bigger and heavier also. A 60lb 7 year old might be on a 120lb bike. There is really no way the child can learn correct technique on these bikes.

With OSETs, the Trials bike based design has many advantages when kids are developing their riding skills. They get to sit down at a low height to begin with, then as they get better, they stand up and begin to learn all about weighting the pegs, body positioning, etc. Kids really learn proper techniques on these bikes.

NOTE:

Running an OSET around or near the house costs about 3.5¢ an hour in electricity. Running a gasoline bike for 2 hours around the house may take 1 gallon of gas, so perhaps \$1.80/hour (\$3.60/gal). Multiplied out by 100 hours riding a year the OSET has cost \$3.50!!! The gas bike has cost \$180!

We know many OSET riders put in a good 5-10 hours riding a week. At 10 hours, over a single year the OSET cost \$17.50 to charge and the gas bike \$900 just for gas!

Of course, this does NOT factor in driving to the track (often a necessity for gas bikes). With that added in, OSETs are not only environmentally friendly, they cost a lot less to operate!



OSET®
TAKING FUN SERIOUSLY





BETTER BY DESIGN:

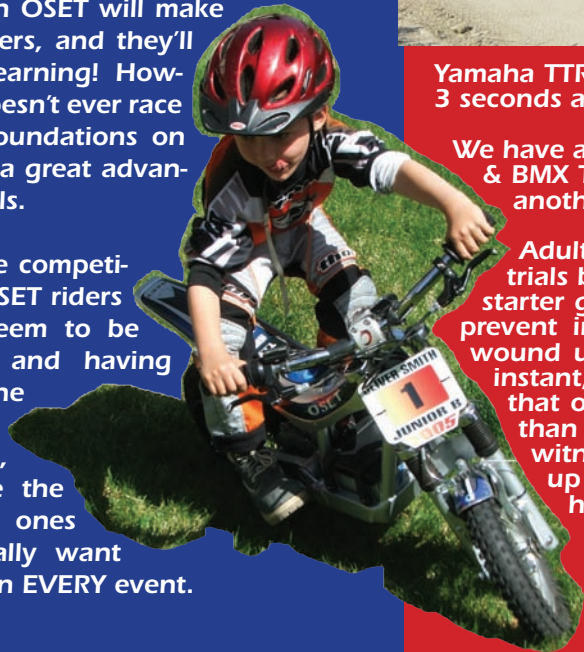
If you think about the bikes we adults ride, especially Trials bikes, and make some calculations, the OSETs are really the only junior bikes out there that truly come close to what adults ride. With an OSET, a 4 year old weighing 40lbs on a bike weighing 47lbs is a pretty good match. A 6 year old weighing 50lbs on a 57lb bike is too. We see 6 year olds on 120lb gasoline bikes all the time, and they know very little technique. How can they? If they lean the bike over and weight the outside peg as they're meant to do, the inevitable results... they fall over.

It's worth remembering that many top riders come from a Trials background, or use Trials for training. Juha Salminen, David Knight and Taddy Blazusiak are without question the best enduro riders in the World, and were Nataional & International class Trials riders before they became enduro riders. Kevin Schwantz was an avid Trials rider as a child, and still is today. Other Trials bike owners include Ricky Carmichael, Mike LaRocco, Stefan Everts and Nicky Hayden. Learning full bike control is a big asset when learning to go quick. OSETs will be great for children whose future lies in Motocross, Enduro, Supermoto, Trials or Road Racing. The skills they learn on an OSET will make them safer, better riders, and they'll have so much fun learning! However, even if a child doesn't ever race bikes, learning the foundations on an OSET will provide a great advantage to increasing skills.

We have found at the competitions we go to, the OSET riders



really seem to be smiling and having fun in the junior classes, and are the only ones that really want to ride in EVERY event.



OSET®

Learn The Language of Riding on an OSET

OSET riders can start their own bikes (a switch!) and pick up their bikes when they go down. They are also the only ones that can tackle the bigger obstacles and hills.

These bikes are fully capable competition machines! As of 2006 Oliver Smith had won 3 straight Colorado State Junior Titles... by the age of 5 years, 3 months! All these titles were won against 6-12 year olds on gas bikes. Since then, Oliver has racked up 5 National wins (from 5 starts!) and multiple club and State wins. At age 7 Oliver is the youngest ever rider to win against adults, riding the adult Novice class.

Oliver also rode a ½ hour hare scrambles race at age 4 ½, against kids as old as 10 years old, many on KTM 65s. It was intimidating, as a lot of the riders knew how to go, but not how to stop. Oliver's bike was not geared up at all, so couldn't match the other bikes for top speed, but he out accelerated most of them, and finished the race. He was the youngest in the race by many years, and onlookers were amazed! More recently, Oliver did a training school on Yamaha TTR90's. After 2 days training, he was still 3 seconds a lap quicker on his OSET 16.0!



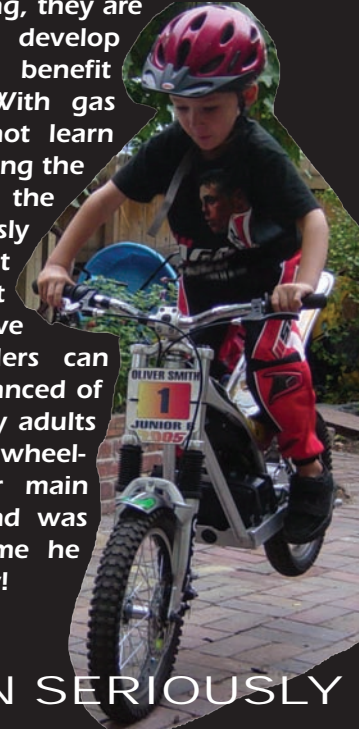
We have also raced OSETs around RC Truck tracks & BMX Tracks, which are perfect! This could be another area where OSETs will thrive.

Adult bikes have instant power (especially trials bikes). Kid's gas bikes do not. Almost all starter gas bikes have centrifugal clutches that prevent instant power. They have to be really wound up to go. On the OSETs, the power is instant, and linear. We could definitely argue that our bikes are much closer to 'real' bikes than many gasoline kid's bikes. We've witnessed a lot of gasoline 50s struggling up very tiny hills, where OSETs fly up steep hills almost effortlessly.



As well as all this of course, OSETs are virtually silent, and can be ridden daily, even in urban areas. Riding is no longer a chore for the parents... it's a pleasure. By riding so often, OSET riders develop unbelievable skills that will help them immensely when they move to gas bikes. In turn, parents can enjoy the learning process, instead of being frustrated by it. In this scenario of non-intimidating bikes and fully involved and encouraging parents, the young riders are in a great position to thrive and learn. In fact, medical and psychological journals and papers point out that children who develop fine motor skills in one area will naturally apply those to others. They will be at an advantage in not just motorized sports, but any sport.

Our philosophy is that a child that learns on an OSET will be years ahead of children learning on heavyweight gasoline bikes. OSETs are completely non-intimidating. Kids love to ride these bikes. This love of riding, and the fact that the bikes do not totally outweigh them, means that their skills develop correctly, and very fast. Children are quick learners. If they learn how to do something correctly in the beginning, they are likely to continue to develop correct skills that will benefit them in the future. With gas bikes, they really cannot learn correct technique. Twisting the throttle and pulling the brake lever are obviously vital skills to learn, but there's a lot more to it than that! We have proven that OSET riders can learn skills that are advanced of many adults. How many adults can really pull nice long wheelies and stoppies? Our main tester can do both, and was doing them by the time he reached his 4th birthday!



TAKING FUN SERIOUSLY

SAFETY:

OSETs are very easy for kids to manage in terms of size and weight. They don't weigh too much, and most of the weight they have is in the batteries and motor. These items are as low as they can be. In the case of the 16" bike, the batteries weigh about 14 lbs and the motor another 11. That's approaching half the weight of the bike! In the case of the 12" bike, those components account for over half.

There is a speed dial that can be set to the skills of the rider. The speed can be set anywhere from 0 to maximum. It is placed to be deliberately awkward to get to, so the kids can't change the speed themselves.

The on/off key switch also allows the responsible adult to remove the key so the child can't ride when it's not appropriate.

These safety features are vital on electric bikes. If the bike is set to a high speed for a new rider and they open the throttle too quickly, they will get instant full torque, and the bike can reach full speed in a couple of seconds. This is potentially dangerous and we strongly warn against this. The features of the bikes must be used responsibly. Most new riders take a while building up to full speed. This is a good thing for learning. The child can learn within their comfort zone, and the bike can grow with them. By the time they are able to use the full power safely, they will have developed some great throttle control. Once again, this is a great skill to have!

AFTERMARKET:

The aftermarket is developing nicely for the OSETs. There are upgrades for many parts, including batteries, controllers etc. We offer sticker kits in many different colors and styles. There are many parts that will make the bikes lighter, or adjust the riding position. Some of the parts are standard bicycle components, so there's a lot of scope for making changes and adjustments. We fully support the products, as do our dealers, and make sure our customers are well looked after. We also encourage customers to get their pictures and videos onto our web-site. As of 2008, OSETs have been sold in over 15 countries, with several countries having large networks of importers and customers.

SUMMARY:

At OSET, we are all motorcycle enthusiasts, with many years of riding and competing under our belts. We are true moto-heads whose main goal in the OSET endeavor is to provide bikes that really make perfect sense for young kids. It is not our goal to squeeze out gasoline bikes. On the contrary, we believe electric bikes fill a void in the market, and can provide the best possible stepping stone for children to eventually graduate to gasoline bikes. We're very excited about forthcoming technologies, and fully intend to experiment with them and produce exciting new products. As a US Company run by life long motorcycle riders, we hope our philosophy will provide customers with a great experience, and riders with bikes they will always remember.

OSET®
TAKING FUN SERIOUSLY

