

## **Gasoline-Powered Bicycles Can Kill You!**



After getting an electric bicycle, I built a bicycle with a gasoline-powered engine from China. I expected greater speed and range than the electric bike - and got it. But I cannot recommend a gasoline-powered bike because it may kill you.

Other drivers expect a bicycle to be, well, a bicycle. They expect your bike to operate at bicycle speeds, 6-10 mph instead of 20+ mph. So they pull out in front of you. This wouldn't be a problem - except a bicycle still has bicycle brakes that stop adequately at 6-10 mph and aren't designed for quick stops from 20 mph.

Because you can pedal a gasoline-powered bicycle with your feet, you can't use your feet to operate any controls. That puts front brake, rear brake, clutch, and throttle controls on the handlebars. To brake effectively, you need to operate both front and rear brake levers at the same time, while reducing the throttle and pulling in the clutch. I do not have enough hands to do this. If I pull in the clutch to prevent the engine from propelling me forward, I can use only one brake. I need two brakes AND pulling in the clutch. Impossible.

I thought that having a gasoline-powered bicycle would be very useful in an emergency. No driver's license. No vehicle registration. No license plates. No liability insurance. No vehicle inspections. No smog inspections. No starter. No one knows you own one. Great gas mileage. All this would be true - if you could operate the gasoline-powered bicycle safely. But with too many hand controls to control, and brakes too poor for the speeds the bicycle can attain, it's just too unsafe.

FYI, I have ridden motorcycles for 34 years and more than 250,000 miles. This is my first powered two-wheeler that is too dangerous to ride.