



You could spend all day drooling over bikes in West Coast Choppers's Long Beach workshop



Robinson described the riding position as 'unique' and it's not hard to see what he means



The Jesse James machine might look like a hardtail, but it actually has full rear suspension



More bang for your buck: replica .44 Magnum bullets are pressed into the handlebar clamps

and my only moment came as I tried a feet up U-turn.

There's no getting away from it, riding a bike like this is a unique experience that's perhaps not to everyone's liking – but I'm a convert. WCC machines are an absolute work of art, the attention to detail and workmanship that had gone into it was

something else. It rode well in a straight line and through gentle corners. Was good in traffic and getting by other road users with a motor as powerful as the S&S V-twin was never an issue. Yeah, yeah, so OK, tight corners are not one of its strongest points. But if that was your main beef then you wouldn't

buy a chopper, you'd get a more nimble bike.

I made it back in one piece and without a mark on the bike; the only thing I'd broken was my chopper virginity you could say. If I'd crashed it, I'm sure I'd now have a high voice and Jesse's dog Cisco would be chewing on my balls...



The 49X is at home darting through traffic

Benelli's giant small scooter

Learner bike's styling apes 160mph Tornado

FOR young Benelli fans, the £1499 two-stroke 49X is the next best thing to a wild TNT super naked or 160mph Tornado superbike. Granted, UK bikes for 16-year-olds will be restricted to 30mph, but it does come loaded with styling cues taken from Benelli's exotic big bikes. It even has an exotic name: Quattro Nove – Italian for 49.

The 49X is made by Benelli's Chinese owners (the Qianjiang Group) to the Italian firm's specifications. Just like the TNT and Tor-

nado, it has the same funky aircraft-type filler fuel cap, the same front indicators and a cool LED rear light cluster. The pillion pegs, mirrors and body panels all have the same Adrian Morton-designed triangle shape that dominates Benelli's large capacity machines. You also get a sportsbike-style rear hugger, a single yellow rear shock, adjustable for preload, 31mm telescopic forks, and a red single-piston front caliper and wavy disc.

The 49X is practical too, with enough storage space under the seat to swallow a

SPECS

BENELLI 49X

Cost:	£1599
Power:	4.5bhp (unrestricted)
Torque:	N/a
Weight (claimed, dry):	96kg
Availability:	Now
Colours:	Yellow/black, black/white, red/black, black.
New for 2009:	New model
Insurance group:	2
Info:	www.benelliscoters.co.uk 0844 412 8450
Fuel capacity:	6.2litres.
Seat height:	800mm
Wheelbase:	1275mm

TECHNICAL SPEC

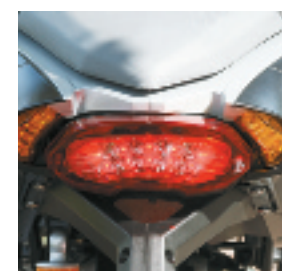
Engine: Air-cooled 49.26cc (40x26mm), two-stroke, single-cylinder. CVT automatic gearbox.
Chassis: Tubular steel frame. 31mm telescopic forks, non-adjustable. Single rear shock, non-adjustable.
Brakes: Single 190mm front disc with single piston caliper. 110mm rear drum.
Tyres: 120/90x10 front, 130/90x10 rear.



49cc scooter is built by Benelli's Chinese parent company



Filler cap apes the superbike



Cool LED rear light cluster



Full-face lid and gloves stash easily under the Benelli's seat