

THE FULL PROFLEXTHESIS Part 2 - Bob Girvin and *PROFLEX*

- more history on the story - as I understand it maybe

Beyond the Embryo

What happened to the KG Engineering Company which was formed around 1987 at 115 Front Street, Woonsocket in Rhode Island 02895?

What happened to Will Herman the Designer?

What happened to Bob Girvin? – he retired in 2000 to Holliston, MA.

What happened to Mike Ducharme, the Fabricatin Expert? - Well it appears he started designing with Robert Egger with the Specialized FSR Enduro in 2000 – 2002 - and then designed with FELT - FAST (Felt Articulating Stay Technology) suspension Bike platforms for XC / MTB's by Aluminium in 2009 and then onto Carbon in 2012 (Check the 2012 - 29r Sea Otter – LTD with Shimano XTR Groupset, Fox forks and Reynolds Carbon wheels) and up until 2014.



Remind the **Offroad, Girvin, Flexstem & Pro.flex** bikes and components were shown in the 1990 & 91 Catalogue for KG Engineering at Ocean State International Inc. from 1989 at 115 Front Street, Woonsocket at Rhode Island 02895. The Company [named as Robert H Girvin III with Directors & Officers – President, Treasurer & Secretary made by Voluntary Dissolution on the 17 December 1997. It was named as the Registered Address at 44 Courtland Street, Holliston 01746 MA.



Remind the **Pro.flex** hierarchy bike numbers developed using a 3 number symbolizing:

A. The first number was with the number 1 – 9 for the design / component product of the bike:

1 - nothing set;

2 for Touring and Commuting – by example 253 (designed from 1992);

3 for Road and Trail – by example 353 (designed from 1992);

4 for Performance – by example 453 (designed from 1992);

5 for Rock through Roll – by example 554 (designed from 1994);

6 for XC – by example 654 (designed from 1996);

7 for Expert Series for performance trails – by example 753 (designed from 1992);

8 for Extreme Series for race – cross country or downhill – by example 853 (designed from 1992);

9 for Pro Series for Team cross country racers – by example 953 (designed from 1992).

B. The second number – was for 5 for Full Suspension – by example 953 (except for two bikes - 962 & 862 introducing Girvin Rock Shox).

C. The third number was for the number year the product was designed / manufactured and offered for a wide range of international distributors ready for sale – by example 953 for 1993.

Also came **Pro.flex** bike names for Sport, Animal, Beast, Reptile, Attack, Newport and Arcadia. (designed from 1990).

The Frame References used are – DT = Down Tube; ST = Seat Tube and TT = Top Tube.

Remind the Details on **Proflex** Brands / Trademarks / Copyrights for their inhouse components were:

Inter-Damp - the initial Elastomer Foam 'springs' with MCU (= Microcellular Urethane springing) Shocks from 1992.

Noleen Racing – NR-1, NR-2 & NR-4 Suspension Units from 1996.

Easton Pro Active – a range with - the Carbon 5th generation DT pivot with single lever rear swingarms, the Aluminium 5th generation DT pivot with single lever rear swingarms, the Aluminium 4ath generation ST pivot with single (short) lever rear swingarms and the Steel 4th generation DT/ST pivot with single (long) lever rear Bell Crank swingarms from 1993.

Girvin – a range of Components - Cranks, Pedals & Flexstems (from about 1989) and Carbon (from 1996) and Aluminium Vector front fork arms and Standard front forks (from 1992).

MORE ON THE CLASSIC COMPONENTS – 1990+

GIRVIN ProForx (c1993)

“The only problem with long, plush travel is that sometimes you need to stop for a leak”



leak
From Prolonged Journeys with Jaws.

Pro•Forx 4-stage elastomer and coil spring cartridge system provides the plush action of hydraulic forks – without the hassles!

Fast, accurate adjustment of oil level eliminates fork

The mechanical spring is linear in the way the tension builds.

- **MORE Travel**
- **NO Hassle**
- **NO Brake Slap**
- **NO Stiction**
- **5 INCHES** leg engagement. (for Superior rigidity)
- And a price sure to surprise you!

Pro•Forx LT with 3" of travel!

Pro•Forx XC with 2" of travel!

GIRVIN
PRO • FORX

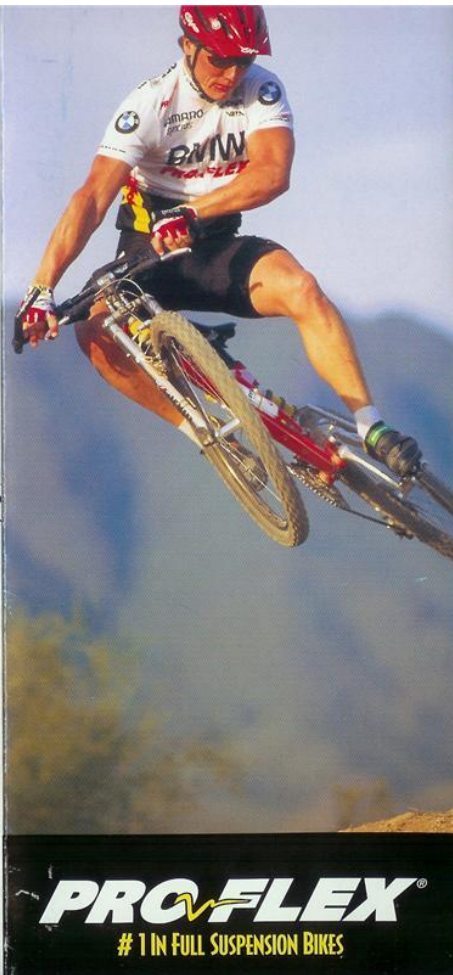
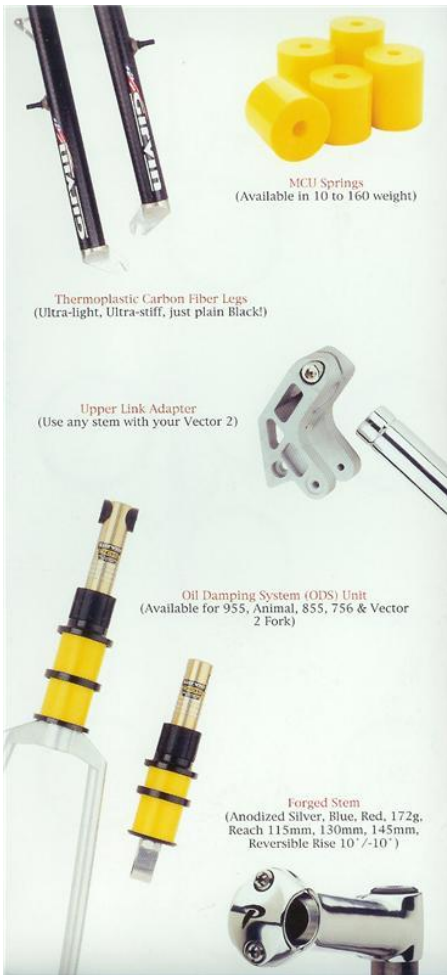
PROForx

- **RELIABLE**
Proven mechanical spring-elastomer design for performance.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT**
Aircraft quality T6-7075 aluminum and 4130 chrome-Molly tubing.
- **SUPERIOR DAMPING**
Smooth progressive damping improves control, lessens rider fatigue.
- **DURABLE**
Precision machine Made in U.S.A. hard anodized finish.
- **FLEX FREE**
Added torsional rigidity for more precise steering.

Experience the Pro Forx difference. A mountain bike equipped with Pro Forx can give you a higher level of performance with every ride. Downhills that once jarred your body and made control nearly impossible become smooth and easy to handle. Pro Forx durable design can conquer even the most intimidating terrain. Improved control and added endurance inspire confident rides for the mountain bike enthusiast. Pro Forx smooth and progressive action is unmatched. Feel the difference Pro Forx can make for you.

413 ROBINSON CIRCLE, PLACENTIA CA 92670 - CALL (714) 993-5454





ProFlex inventor and former Aerospace Engineer Bob Girvin knows the value of suspension. During the '80s, Bob rode his first mountain bike through the rocks, roots, and glacial debris of New England. Like many riders, he felt something was missing. An off-road motorcyclist and vintage automobile racer, Bob had experienced the benefits of suspension. He reasoned that a well designed suspension system would revolutionize mountain biking. The result of Bob's vision was born in 1990—the world's first mass produced full suspension bike.

At first, critics claimed full suspension mountain bikes were just a fad. No longer. This year people have tried ProFlex full suspension and become believers. In fact, *Popular Science* named the ProFlex 855 "The best new recreational product of the year." (December 1994), while *Mountain Biking Magazine* awarded the ProFlex 855 its "Suspension Bike of the Year" award.

ProFlex is the only active suspension design with Dig-In™. It's exclusive patented pivot location places the swingarm pivot on the chain line. A ProFlex stays plush and fully active in the middle and big rings, but will outclimb rigid and suspension bikes alike. What makes the difference? Patented Dig-In™ technology that pulls the rear wheel into the ground when climbing in granny gear.

Everyone is realizing what Bob Girvin believed all along—suspension is here to stay. Whether you're a racer or a part-time enthusiast, you'll have more fun on a ProFlex. Experience the difference for yourself. Test ride a ProFlex today and become a believer. Then the next time you float down a nasty trail in your neck of the woods, point your nose toward the East and give Bob a nod.

The **White Brothers Cycling** (Dan and Tom White (identical twins) made **ProForx** and other bike components retired about 1995 and sold the company rights to EKOSport (and still sell spares).

Don't knock your teeth out.



4 out of 5 dentists recommend using Rock Ring™ for cleaner, healthier teeth... & big grins

Teeth suffering from grind disease



Teeth protected by Rock Ring



Bite back with
ROCK-RING™

Ocean State International, Inc., 115 Front Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-1040

NEW

Girvin™ Flexstem™ XST
(Extra Strong Titanium)
Stem & Bar combo.
Only 560 grams!

NEW

Girvin™ Aluminum Quill Flexstem™ - 490 grams!



Add suspension and lose weight!

Go faster on dirt with more control with a new Girvin Flexstem - the most efficient front-end bicycle suspension system available today.

GIRVIN™ FLEXSTEM XST

Lengths: 135mm, 150mm
Stem Diameters: Standard (22.2mm), Oversize (25.4mm), Evolution (28.6mm)
Handlebar width: 22"
Handlebar bend: 5°
Color: Natural Titanium "Platinum"
Weight: 560 Grams (135mm)

CONSTRUCTION

Quill: CNC Machined aluminum
Extension: Ovalized & tapered Titanium
Handlebars: Titanium welded to extension
Paddle: Triangular titanium
Packaging: Boxed individually

GIRVIN™ FLEXSTEM

Lengths: 100mm, 120mm, 135mm, 150mm
Stem Diameters: Standard (22.2mm), Oversize (25.4mm), Evolution (28.6mm)
Color: Neon yellow or grey extension
Weight: 490 Grams (120mm)

CONSTRUCTION

Quill: CNC Machined aluminum - now 30 grams lighter!
Extension: Lightweight Cromoly
Paddle: New larger, stronger, triangular Cromoly with six weight reducing holes
Packaging: Colorful, individual POP box

Manufactured and distributed by Ocean State International, Inc.
115 Front Street • Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895 USA • 401-765-0130 Fax: 401-765-2588

How to turn an XR3 into a Porsche...

If you've already tweaked every nut and bolt for extra performance, you'll just love what we've got for you! Now you can add suspension to your bike to help you go faster, with more control and less pain for your efforts!

What's so special about the Flexstem?

To begin with it has been designed by mountain bike guru, Bob Girvin. He's the guy who won't dream of changing anything on a bike unless it's a cut iron certainty that it improves things for you, the rider. Look what the Flexstem does for you:

INCREASES SPEED. The Girvin Flexstem simply soaks up the trail shock and allows you to travel much faster. The patented pivot system utilizes elastomeric urethane springs to take out thousands of shocks and vibrations.

MORE COMFORT. The result is that your ride is far more comfortable - the Flexstem reduces fatigue and saves energy - your energy! It reduces the jarring on your arms, taking the edge off bumps to give you that winning edge.

IMPROVES CONTROL. With reduced trail shock you will find yourself in more control - allowing you to go faster on technical downhills. Who wants to take an

unforeseen kamikaze dive into the trees? Now you can take the fastest line - not just the smoothest.

ULTRA LIGHT. With it's new aluminum quill the Flexstem weighs in at just 490gms - and the amazing Titanium XST Flexstem handlebar combo weighs in at just 530gms. Now you can add suspension and lose weight.

COMPATIBILITY. A Girvin Flexstem won't mess with your bikes handling - it maintains the original frame/fork geometry - so your bike will behave like it's always behaved - except that it will be smoother, faster and you'll have more control!

ADJUSTABLE FLEX. Flexstem's colour-coded spring system enables you to fine tune the flex to suit your weight, riding style or even the course you're riding!

GO ON - FIT A FLEXSTEM. The only thing you'll look back on are your fellow riders!

ROCK RING. Four out of five dentists recommend Rock Ring for healthier teeth, Rock Ring is the ultimate chain ring protector allowing you



Offroad Pro-Flex 250

More Girvin wizardry can be seen on the 92 mountain bike range from Offroad - including bikes that have three fully independent integrated and adjustable suspension systems! The Pro-Flex Generation 3 suspension system works to give you advantages uphill as well as downhill.

And this is not simple advertising chat, we'll even send you a university report showing that an Offroad Pro-Flex can increase the total amount of power converted into forward motion by at least 5.5%*. Gravity sucks - but perhaps not quite so hard when you're on an Offroad Pro-Flex!

For the name of your nearest Girvin Components like they contact Ultra Sport. Or send £1.00 for an Offroad colour catalogue, the university report* and a "Gravity Sucks" sticker. Ultra Sport (UK) Ltd, Acton Grove, Acton Road Industrial Estate, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 1FY. Tel: 0602 731001

GIRVIN™ FLEXSTEM **ALU**

FLEXSTEM

GIRVIN™ FLEXSTEM **CroMo**

Weltweit die populärste Art der Vorbauämpfung
 Reduziert Ermüdung und spart Energie! Mehr Kontrolle mit weniger Kraftaufwand! Absorbiert Stöße und Schläge im unwegsamem Gelände!

Geeignet für alle Geländefahrer. Durch eine kleine austauschbare elastomere Feder, die dem Lenker zwischen 2 cm und 2,5 cm Dämpfungsweg erlaubt, werden sämtliche "Unregelmäßigkeiten" des Geländes ohne Verminderung des Lenkgefühls oder Handlings geschluckt. GIRVIN Flexstem ist der erprobte Weg um Ihr Bike-Leistungsvermögen zu steigern.

Keine Veränderung der Geometrie am Rad; nachrüstbar für jedes MTB oder Trekking-Bike.

nur 490 gr.

nur DM 149,-

GIRVIN™ COMPONENTS

VERTRIEB DEUTSCHLAND
 b.c.s. bavaria cycle sport GmbH
 Grünmühlstraße 14, W-80335 Gailing • Tel. 0 89 / 8 50 76 53 • Fax 0 89 / 8 50 88 81

VERTRIEB SCHWEIZ
 TITAN Fahrrad A.G. • Sagelstr. 116 CH, 4802 Strengelbach • Tel. 62 / 51 31 31

Square Tapered - **Girvin PowerDrive** (Cook Bros?) in Steel and Sugino Aluminium Cranks came engraved as 'Girvin'



Girvin / K2 MagC Clipless Pedals - Shimano like SPD Vintage in Grey MTB Magnesium



THE SHOCKING TRUTH

Sure, you've ridden a few suspension bikes in your day. Does that make you an expert? You bet it does. Anyone who's ridden suspension knows all shocks aren't created equal. Shock absorbers may look similar, but the technology inside, and the performance they deliver, can be as different as orange juice and shock therapy.

Noleen's damping system uses multiple oil circuits, floating pistons, stable nitrogen gas and fully adjustable damping to deliver factory racing performance. In fact, Mountain Bike Action Magazine remarked "Noleen took a decade of motorcycle suspension knowledge and stuffed it all into a diminutive nitrogen charged hydraulic shock. Noleen's sophisticated valving has made its shocks the kings of crush for five years to date."

To make the most of your full suspension rig, bolt on the shock absorber that sets the mountain biking standard. Noleen: designed to handle any shock.

NOLEEN NR-1

- Nitrogen-charged floating piston
- Chrome silicon steel spring
- Adjustable preload
- New lighter body



NOLEEN NR-2

- Nitrogen-charged floating piston
- Chrome silicon steel spring
- Adjustable preload
- Adjustable rebound
- New lighter body



NOLEEN NR-4

- Nitrogen-charged floating piston
- Chrome silicon steel spring
- Adjustable preload
- Adjustable compression
- Adjustable rebound
- Remote reservoir

COIL SPRINGS

Available in six spring rates to suit your weight and riding style. Chrome silicon steel for durability. Choose from red, yellow, black or titanium to shave grams. Installs in minutes.



Expert

- Noleen NR-1
- 6061 aluminum leg
- Nitrogen charged
 - Grease ports
- Lightweight aluminum shaft and shaved body
 - 3" of travel
- Titanium bolt kit available



Elite

- Noleen NR-2
- Easton 6061 aluminum leg
- Adjustable rebound
- Nitrogen charged
 - Grease ports
- Lightweight aluminum shaft and shaved body
 - 3" of travel
- Titanium bolt kit available



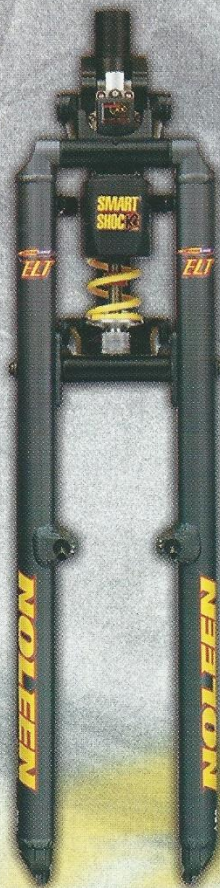
Pro Carbon

- Noleen NR-2
- Easton carbon fiber leg with thermoplastic hot coat
- Adjustable rebound
- Nitrogen charged
 - Grease ports
- Lightweight aluminum shaft and shaved body
 - 3" of travel
- Titanium bolt kit available



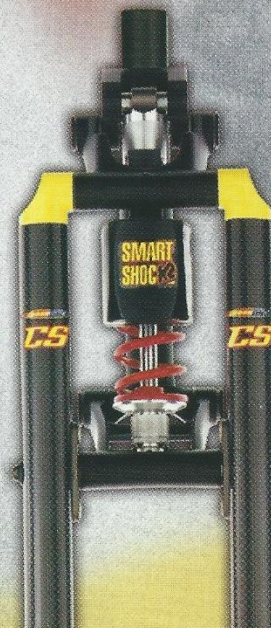
Elite S

- K2 Smart Shock, variable electronic damping
- Easton 6061 aluminum leg
- Adjustable rebound
- Nitrogen charged
- Grease ports
- Lightweight aluminum shaft
- 3" of travel
- Titanium bolt kit available



Pro Carbon S

- K2 Smart Shock, variable electronic damping
- Easton carbon fiber leg with thermoplastic hot coat
- Adjustable rebound
- Nitrogen charged
- Grease ports
- Lightweight aluminum shaft
- 3" of travel
- Titanium bolt kit available



Noleen Chubby

- MCU and coil springs
- Easton EA-70 stanchions
- Air damping chamber
- Magnesium sliders
- Stiffer springs included
- Disc brake ready
- 4" travel

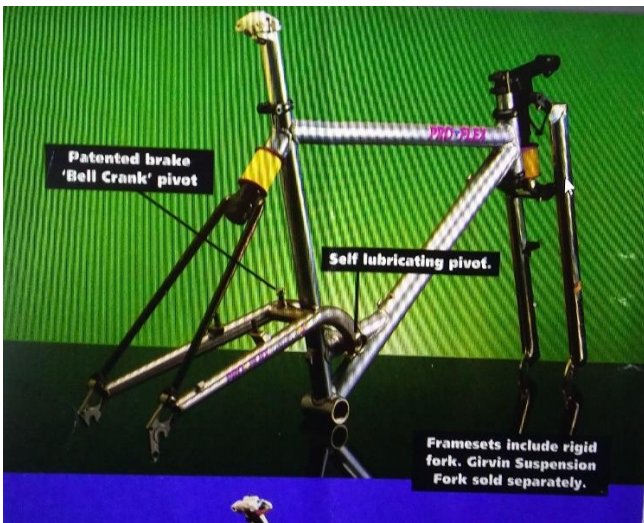
Noleen Chubby LT

- MCU and coil springs
- Easton EA-70 stanchions
- Air damping chamber
- Magnesium sliders
- Stiffer springs included
- Disc brake ready
- 5" travel

Noleen Chubby DH

- Coil Springs
- Oil damping with separate compression and rebound pistons
- Adjustable compression, rebound and spring preload
- 36 mm 7075 aluminum stanchions
- 7075 aluminum sliders
- Stiffer/softer springs included
- Disc brake ready
- 20mm clamped axle
- 6" travel

MORE ON THE CLASSIC FRAMES – 1990+



Framesets



Direct Braking
Thru-frame brake port for more powerful braking and easier brake setup.

Super Low Standover
Available in 12-14" sizing to fit women and smaller riders.

Second Generation World Cup Frame
Over 15 improvements including redesigned strut and fork box for improved handling precision and durability.

Beefy Swingarm Design
Improved gusseting for increased lateral stiffness and durability.

856 Frame
Winner of more U.S. regional cross country races than any other frameset. Build your own Hank replica!

Girvin ODS Technology
The Girvin Oil Damping System keeps the wheels on the ground in consecutive high-frequency hits, and absorbs large impacts with ease.

Super Low Standover
Available in 12-14" sizing to fit women and smaller riders.

Long Travel
Interrupted seat tube design provides 3.5" of plush travel to soak up the gnarliest terrain.

Advanced Thermoplastic
Compared to traditional carbon fiber, ProFlex's thermoplastic composite is 5 times tougher.

956 Frameset
Super Light. Super Stiff. Complete with Thermoplastic Girvin Fork.



857 Carbon Rear Swingarm Mark1

857 Frameset
Easton ProGram tubing. Easton carbon fiber swingarm. Noleen NR-2 shock with adjustable compression and rebound. Available in Small, Medium, Large, and Way Big.

