

THE FULL PROFLEXTHESIS Part 3A - Bob Girvin and *PROFLEX*

- even 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.

MORE ON THOSE CLASSIC USED BIKES – 1990 PART A+

1990 BOB GIRVIN Offroad Proflex (Seen Sept 2021 - The 1990 versions were the only versions made handbuilt by KG Engineering at Serotta and only 100 off)



Proflex RF-1 Team Replica (Seen Feb 2022 UK)

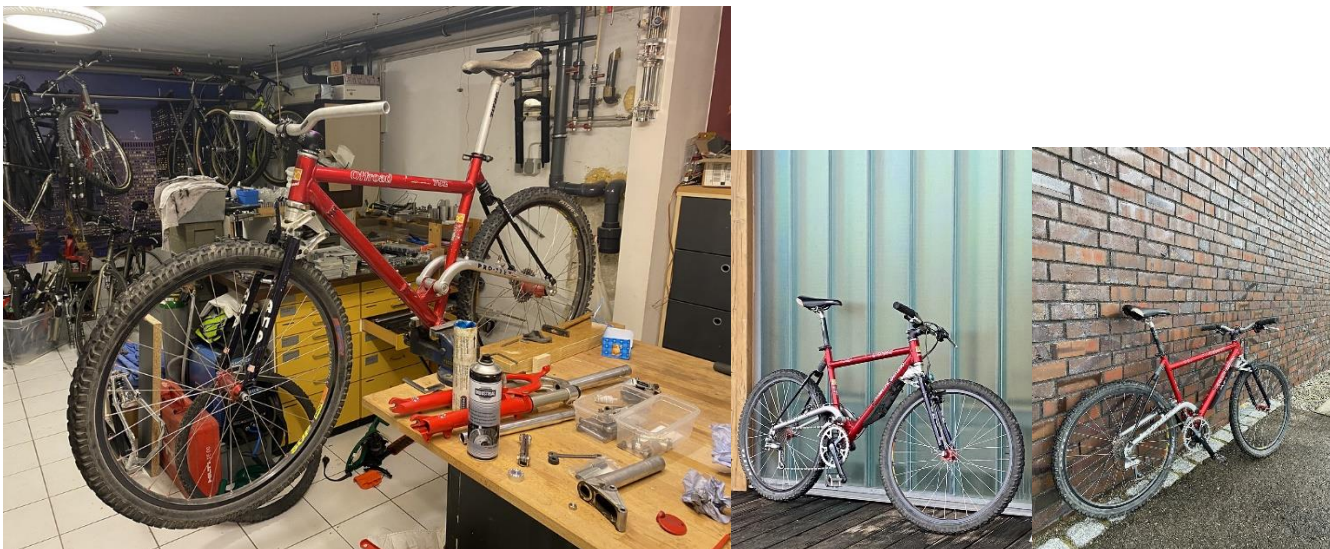




Proflex Offroad 750 (Seen Feb 2023 Market Harborough UK)



Proflex 752 with AMP front forks (Seen Dec 2022 in USA?)



Proflex 253 Restored and updated (Seen May 2021 in USA?)

A converted 1 × 7 drivetrain using a Suntour indexed thumbie. Shifting is crisp and light. The crank is an old Sugino ALP crank kept with a small 40t chainring. The crank arm just misses the swing arm by a hair. The RD is the bike's original Shimano Altus C10 RD. A new set of Panaracer Pasela tyres in 32mm width makes this a zippy and plushy ride. The handlebars are Surly Open and work super well with the Girvin Flexstem. Wheels are Shimano Exage hubs laced to Sun Levanter rims.



Proflex Beast 1996 (Seen before – after - Oct 2022 California)



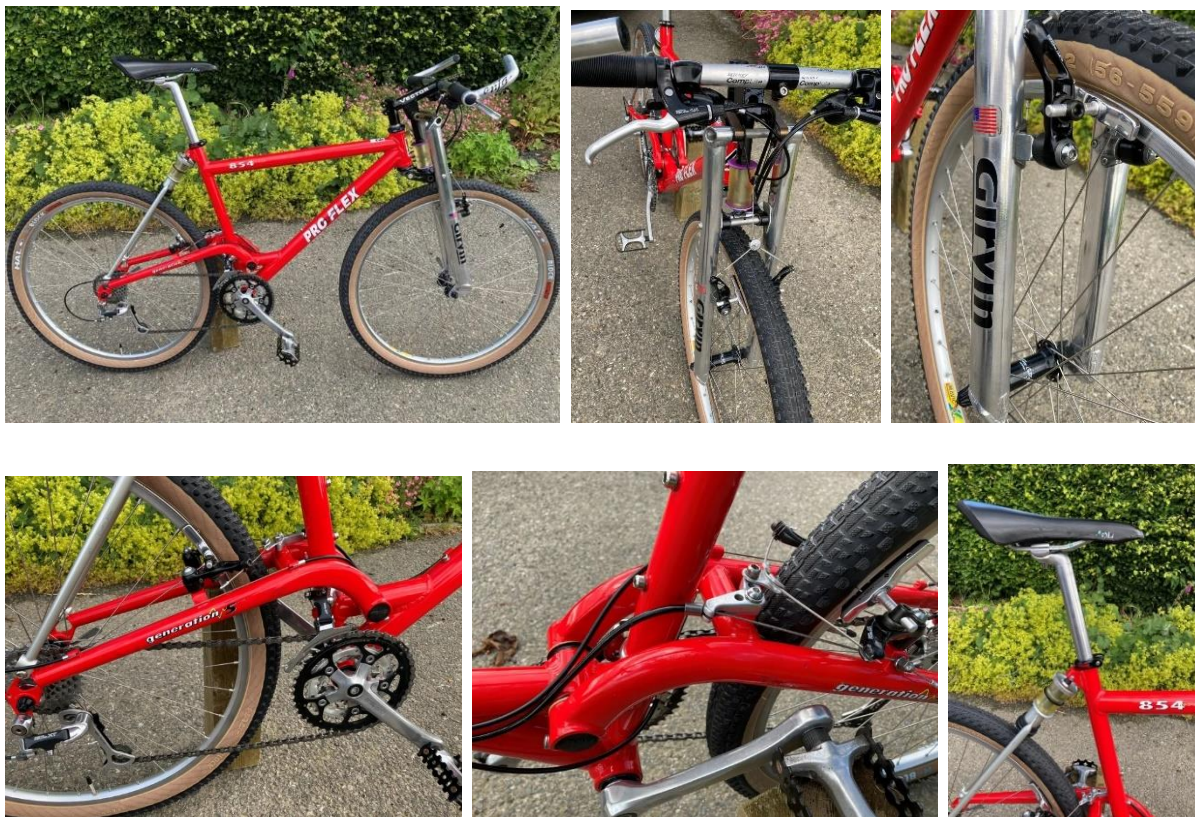
Proflex 554 (Seen original Jan 2023 King's Lynn UK)

Proflex 554 mountain bike. Shimano STX groupset including wheels, updated forks and new bushes in rear suspension, Shimano XT brakes in very good condition includes carbon fibre pedals and bottle cage.



Restored 1994 Proflex 854 with Girvin Vector forks (Seen Jan 2023 Well, Somerset UK)

Completely standard with the exception of the front rim which is a period Mavic M231 instead of a Sun Chinook CR16. This was imported from the US into GB. Bike is in excellent condition and fully functional with the original paintwork and the scratches have been touched in. Bike Spec. Girvin Vector forks, Shimano 7 speed LX integrated rapid fire shifters and brake levers, Shimano 21 speed LX chainset, Shimano XT derailleurs, Shimano LX cantilever brakes, Shimano LX Parallax hubs, Vetta SL saddle. New bits: Suspension elastomers from Suspension Fork Parts in the US, 7 speed Shimano HG chain, Hub cones and bearings, tubes and tyres (Halo H blocks), Brake shoes and blocks and All cables and outers.



Proflex 755 (Seen Restored but updated Sept 2023 Evesham, UK)



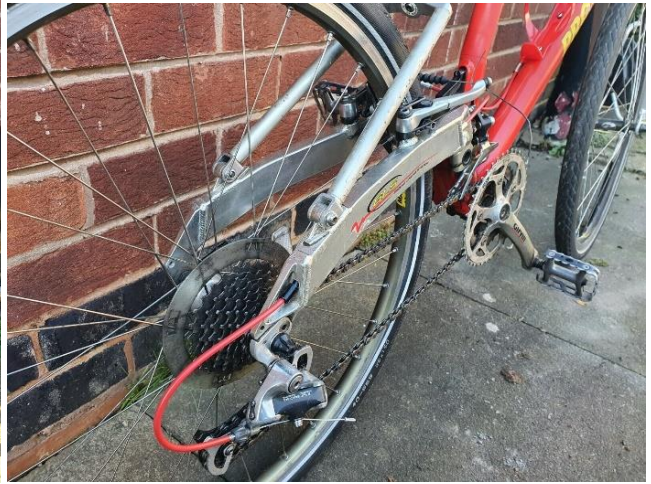
Proflex 656 (Seen May 2012 Australia)



Proflex Attack (Seen original Feb 2023 Chesterfield Derby UK)



Proflex 856 (Seen original Jan 2023 Nuneaton UK)



Proflex 657 (Seen original Jan 2023 Callington UK)



Proflex 757 F&R Mk1 Carbon Arms, Spinerdy Wheels and Risse rear suspension (Seen Dec 2021 UK)



Proflex 857 (Seen original April 2021 UK with Carbon Rear Swingarm Mark 1)



Proflex 957 (Seen original upgraded March Ilminster 2023 UK with Carbon Rear Swingarm Mark 1)





Proflex 957 (SMALL) Upgraded:
 SLX 3 x 10 groupset
 Magura HS33 brakes
 XTR M950 seat post
 Bioflex Carbon/Titanium saddle
 Hope stem (oversize clamp)
 Race face handlebars (oversize clamp)
 Rolf Propel paired spoke wheels

