

DRAG SPECIALTIES: BRAND UPDATE

A PERSONAL CASE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Edge Advertising is the in-house agency for LeMans Corporation
—a leading distributor of aftermarket motorsports parts.

In 2010, I was brought on board as Creative Director.

I was hired in part for my love of motorcycles. And one of my primary tasks was working on the Drag Specialties brand—the house brand of aftermarket parts and parts distribution for V-Twin American motorcycles.

I inherited a brand lacking consistent treatment, tone, or voice.

I INHERITED
A BRAND
LACKING
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THE CHALLENGE

Drag Specialties is unique in that it is a multifaceted B2B and B2C brand. It is a brand focused on motorcycle shops and dealers (parts distribution), and it is also a line of aftermarket parts directed at consumers. Although Drag Specialties does not sell direct-to-consumer, they approach their marketing as if they do.

In 2010, Drag advertising was almost 100% print—magazines and catalogs. They primarily used two types of ads: bike-builds to showcase parts from many manufacturers, and ads focused on Drag Specialties branded parts. Their main catalog—the FatBook™—was, and still is, the standard in aftermarket V-Twin parts.

The primary challenge we faced was melding the dealer and consumer messages, and giving them equal weight. Very little thought had been given to how the brand was perceived in the consumer market. They were dealer focused and there was no cohesive message.

THE DRAG SPECIALTIES "BRAND" WAS WHERE
THE LOGO LIVED AND HOW LARGE IT WAS.

DRAG SPECIALTIES MAGAZINE ADS: 2009 - EARLY 2010





DRAG



DRAG

THE APPROACH

The keepers of the Drag Specialties brand were very hands-on, this included the president of LeMans. In order to evolve the brand, I had to win their trust. It required baby-steps.

I began by simplifying the graphic style for all marketing materials, and developed cohesive font, logo, and tagline treatments.

We started looking at each piece of advertising and collateral as an extension of the brand, not just a one-off.



V.C

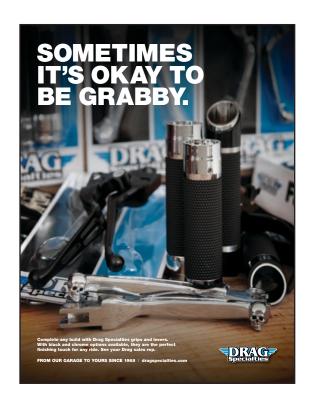
THE 2013 OLDBOOK™ COVER BIKE

ESTABLISHED CONSTANCY BETWEEN ADS AND COLLATERAL.



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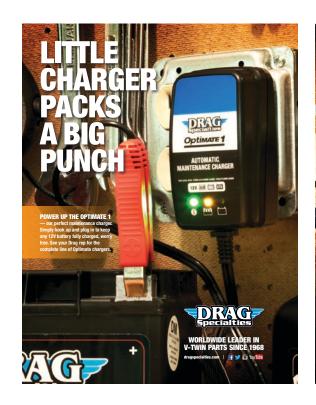
INCORPORATED STYLIZED PHOTOGRAPHY INTO PARTS ADVERTISING.



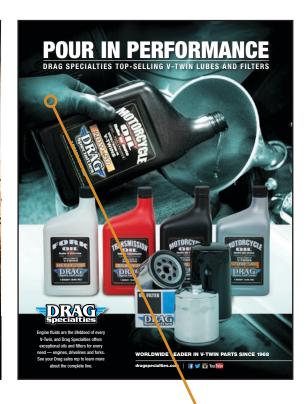




INTRODUCED LIFESTYLE AND LOCATION IMAGERY INTO ADVERTISING.

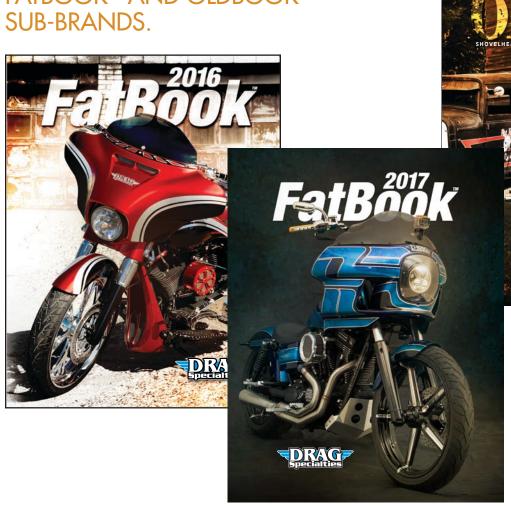


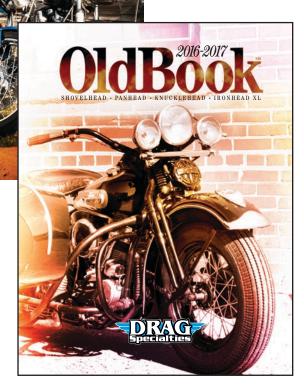




ADDED HUMAN ELEMENT.

STANDARDIZED FATBOOK[™] AND OLDBOOK[™] SUB-BRANDS



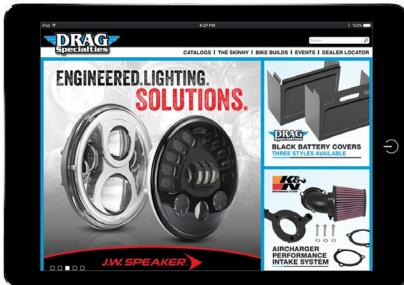


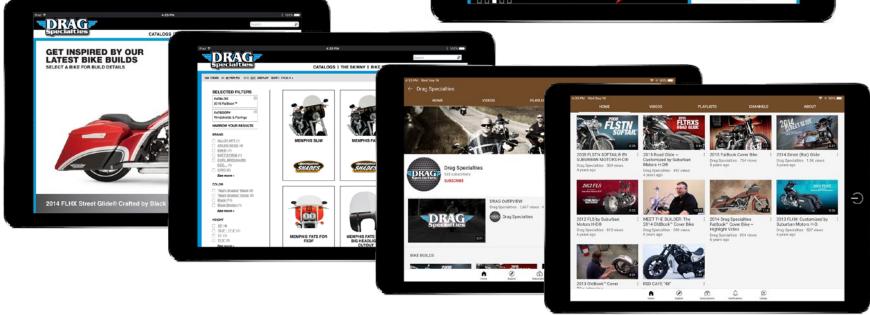
In addition to a visual upgrade, we had to give Drag Specialties a voice—one that spoke to all audiences. My goal was to infuse my knowledge of the motorcycle world into the brand message, and establish a tone that was straightforward but also reinforced Drag Specialties as an established and trusted name.

atteries



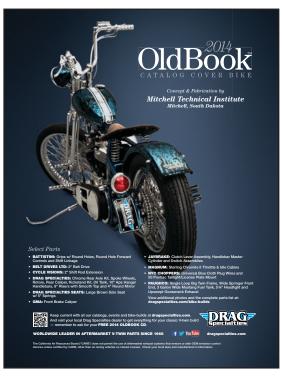
Lastly, we had to move the brand away from being solely print focused and establish a digital presence. Myself, along with the Edge marketing director and LeMans corporate IT, introduced digital media into the mix by developing a social presence and revamping the website.

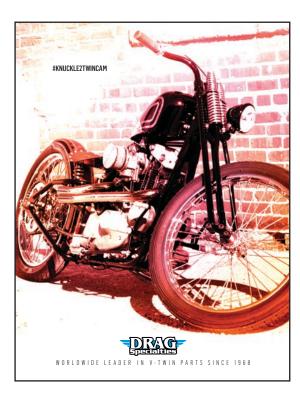




UTILIZED DIGITAL TACTICS WITHIN PRINT ADVERTISING

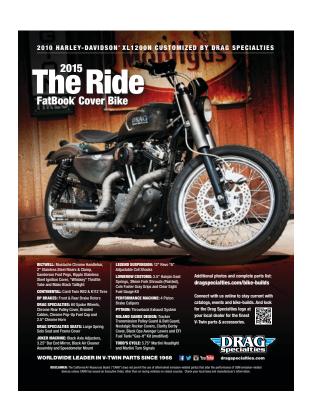






ENCOURAGED DIGITAL INTERACTION WITH QR CODES AND HASHTAGS.

INTEGRATED PRINT & DIGITAL ADVERTISING

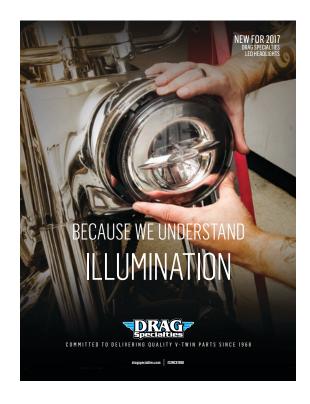






THE EVOLUTION

2016 ~ DRAG SPECIALTIES EVOLVES FROM BEING SIMPLY PRODUCT CENTRIC AND BECOMES A LIFESTYLE BRAND.



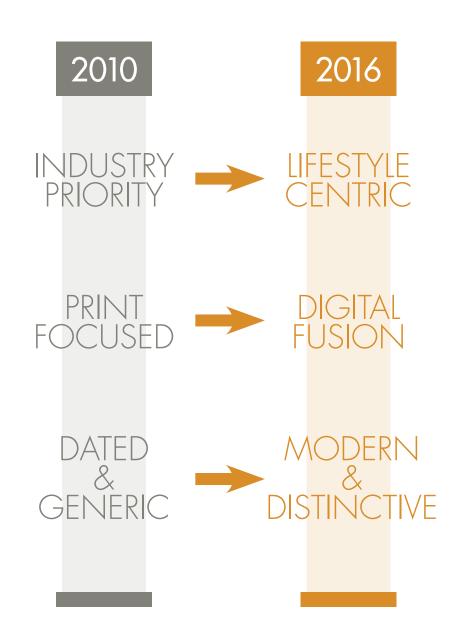




FIRST TIME DRAG SPECIALTIES CONSUMER ADVERTISING DID NOT FEATURE A MOTORCYCLE OR PARTS.

When I left Edge Advertising in the spring of 2017, the Drag Specialties brand had a cohesive graphic treatment and comprehensive creative approach—integrated across all mediums and deliverables.

The Drag brand had a renewed vision with a message focused on improving the entire motorcycle riding experience.



THANK YOU