

BUSINESS

Local race mechanic expands custom wheel-building company

By Chloé Morrison • Published Tuesday, March 27th 2012 at 4:13pm



Merlyn Townley operates his business from his North Chattanooga home. (Photo: Staff)

Owner of Chattanooga custom wheel-building company Merlyn Townley has expanded his business with new products, an online blog and a revamped [website](#).

“We wanted a cleaner look for the website that could really showcase the unique builds that we create, as well as a platform for sharing industry news, mechanic tips and other projects that we are working on,” Townley said. “I’m really looking forward to creating unique content and sharing it with bike lovers. We’re working on video content, industry commentary and offbeat stories from around the cycling community.”

Two years ago, the seasoned pro-race mechanic started Merlyn Mechanics out of his home, where Townley creates artisan custom bicycle wheels, “built-to-order” for cycling fanatics, bike shops, manufacturers, frame-building companies and their customers.

Merlyn Mechanics offers bicycle repair and maintenance, custom bike builds, frame alignment, wheel displays for shops, spoke cutting and related bicycle products.

Townley has traveled the world—60 countries and six continents—as a race mechanic, [he told Nooga.com last year](#).

He settled in Chattanooga after he met the woman who is now his wife drew him to the area.

Townley has been a bicycle mechanic since 1982 and has provided support for more 1,000 national and international races.

He has also served as a mechanic/team manager for more 20 teams worldwide, including the Dansko Woman’s Pro Team; the MG X-Power Cycling Team; and the Australian, USA, Japanese and Rwandan National Teams.

Through his experience as a race mechanic, he observed what works about a wheel and what doesn’t.

“A bicycle race mechanic is the first line of defense on the last frontier and often the most underappreciated person in the game,” he said. “But a racer who wants to win, increase speed and efficiency has everything to gain. A seasoned mechanic has the skills to make the most rudimentary of bikes sing.”

