

CHONDA How To

Gulf Coast Karters is pleased to adopt a new class of racing for our members. The class, which is becoming wildly popular throughout the country, is often referred to as a 4-stroke "Clone" class. At GCKI we refer to it lovingly as our CHONDA series. The CHONDA series is designed to be a low-cost, entry level racing series. We break the class into two separate series – a cadet class for racers age 8 to 11 and a senior class for racers 12 to ...well, just about any age. (Note that many of GCKI's more experienced racers also compete in the CHONDA class due to the tight competition and economical extra seat time the series provides.)



The heart of the CHONDA class is the engine. Gulf Coast Karters (GCKI) has made it easy on our participants by selecting a single engine to keep the playing field as level as possible for all participants. Our engine is the "Blue" Harbor Freight Greyhound – a 6.5 horsepower, very reliable, 4-stroke engine. The Harbor Freight serial number is 66015. These have a regular selling price of about \$160, but can often be found on sale in the \$100 range with coupon specials.

Once you have the engine you will have to convert it from a box-stock package to a racing machine. This is very easily accomplished via simple bolt-on kits sold through arcracing.com (note that many of the parts can also be purchased through GCKI's sponsor Fastechracing.com as well.) If you go to the [arcracing](http://arcracing.com) website and click on the "blog" link at the top of their homepage there are many great tips on the clone engine – the most useful of which is a step-by-step video on how to convert the engine. (About 3 pages deep in the blog)

<http://arcracing.blogspot.com/2008/07/prepping-196cc-ohv-65-hp-4-cycle-engine.html>

From there you will need to buy some conversion parts. Start with the basic conversion kit: DJ-1014 ARC Box Stock Parts Kit - \$85 (be sure to choose the Harbor Freight engine kit in the drop-down menu).

You'll need to change the cam. The cams are \$31.75 on the arcracing.com site, part DJ-1109I

You'll need to add a clutch. The Front driver (clutch) is open but we recommend a 15 tooth for Katy. <http://www.arcracing.com/servlet/the-19/centrifugal-drum-shoe-clutch/Detail>

We require a spec muffler. RLV "Mini 91" AKRA/WKA mufflers. arcracing.com sells the header/muffler/brace for \$39.95

You will need a motor mount (this will depend upon what chassis you are running)- about \$65, a few rear split sprockets #35 - we suggest 55 to 58 teeth - good to have several on hand and a #35 chain.

With some basic tools and after a little practice it takes about a solid hour to complete the entire engine conversion. There are plenty members who are always glad to give out tips and advice. Start by contacting one of our officers through our webpage – we all either run or have run the CHONDA class.

Once the engine is complete – you'll need to seek out a good used kart racing chassis. Our GCKI classifieds (under our forums section), 3G Kart Racing, eBay, Craigslist, ekartingnews, or kartnationatmsr.com are all good places to look. If you come out to the track on a race day and ask around – you might be successful in locating one for sale as well. There always seems to be a constant stream of used equipment available on the market as racers upgrade. The great thing about the CHONDA class is that you certainly do not need the latest and greatest technology to be competitive.

Hopefully this helps to get you started on your way to some very fun and competitive racing.

Remember, if you have any questions any of the GCKI volunteer officers will be very glad to help. Send us an email or give us a call.