

Barn Fresh?

not quite,
but close
enough

BY JIM RIZZO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RANDY LORENTZEN

Traditional-style hot rods are all the rage, and it's not a fad, mind you, but a popular build style that has developed as the supply of real barn-fresh hot rods has diminished over the years. Jeff Ayeroff's neat '39 Ford coupe may not be one of those true barn-fresh hot rods, but it's sure close enough for us.

Jeff found this clean, stock survivor at a local car show. It was a completely-stock driver that was luckily for sale. The coupe was just what Jeff was looking for as a foundation for a traditional-style hot rod. Jeff snatched it up before someone else did, and then proceeded to update the Ford with a plethora of aftermarket hardware—all the while leaving the '39 visually in stock form. The nearly pristine sheetmetal was removed from the stock chassis and set aside for installation on a completely new Roadster Shop '35-40 chassis assembly.

The new Roadster Shop frame is equipped with independent front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, and disc brakes. Out back, a Ford 9-inch rearend assembly is held in place by a triangulated four-bar setup and a pair of coilover shocks. Jeff decided on front and rear disc brakes, as well.

Motorvation is supplied by a warmed-over, dual-quad, 327-cube small-block backed by a 700-R4 overdrive trans, a combination that offers the coupe plenty of pop—enough to tattoo a smile on any true hot rod's face, that's for sure.

When the mechanicals were complete, Jeff bolted on a set of 16-inch steel wheels and stock hubcaps, and then lowered the body onto its new foundation. The body needed no work, but Jeff did opt to give the coupe a fresh coat of paint. He had his painter, Scott Burowski, finish off the job with a few coats of semigloss clear, just for that weathered look.

The interior was kept pretty darn stock, as well. The



only modern additions were a good stereo system and a dose of air conditioning for comfy cruising. The balance of Jeff's interior upgrades include a new set of seat covers and door panels, a new OEM-style rubber floor mat, and the addition of seatbelts; the headliner and original factory woodgraining remain.

As is plain to see, Jeff's '39 project ended up just as cool-lookin' as any barn-find, just without the patience and detective work required in situations such as those. So, although it's not a true barn-find hot rod, it sure is one beautiful survivor that's destined to live out the rest of its life as a way-cool ride. **SR**



A pair of seatbelts and the lack of a clutch pedal are the only clues to this survivor's modern-day upgrades. New door panels, fresh seat covers, and a new rubber floor mat grace the otherwise original interior. Everything else, from the original headliner to the factory woodgraining, are circa 1939.



Pop the hood and this mild-mannered coupe reveals it's really a wolf in sheep's clothing with a small-block Chevy dual-quad 327.



Though freshly painted, Jeff wanted to retain the body's look of originality. To that end, he had his painter do a bit of faux patina here and there before the final clearcoat. If you like the look, turn to page 84 for more on patina.



FACTS & FIGURES

Jeff Ayeroff
Pacific Palisades, California
1939 Ford coupe

CHASSIS

Frame / Manufacturer . . . '39 Ford / Roadster Shop
(Mundelein, IL)
Wheelbase 112"
Chassis plumbing . . . stainless steel
Rear end / Ratio . . . 9" Ford / 3.00:1
Rear suspension . . . coilover shocks & triangulated
four-bar
Rear brakes Wilwood (Camarillo, CA)
Front suspension . . . IFS, Heidt's Hot Rod Shop
(Wauconda, IL)
Front brakes Wilwood
Master cylinder . . . GM dual-res
Steering box r&p
Wheel covers Ford
Front wheel make, size. Wheel Vintiques (Fresno, CA),
16x7
Rear wheel make, size. Wheel Vintiques, 16x7
Front tire make, size. Coker (Chattanooga, TN), 300/16

Rear tire make, size . . . Coker, 300/16
Gas tank stock, 16-gal
Other chassis items . . . fully boxed, custom
crossmembers

ENGINE

Make Chevrolet
Displacement 327ci
Machining / Assembly. Dan Brewer
(Torrance, CA)
Crankshaft GM
Camshaft GM Performance
Water pump Edelbrock
(Torrance, CA)
Cooling fan 16" electric
Radiator Copper/brass, Mattson's Radiator
(Stanton, CA)
Alternator 160-amp
Heads Chevrolet
Valve covers Corvette
Manifold / Induction . . . Chevrolet dual-quad /
Rochester (2)
Ignition / Wires electronic / 8mm
Headers Chevrolet iron manifolds
Exhaust / Mufflers . . . aluminized steel / Turbo

TRANSMISSION

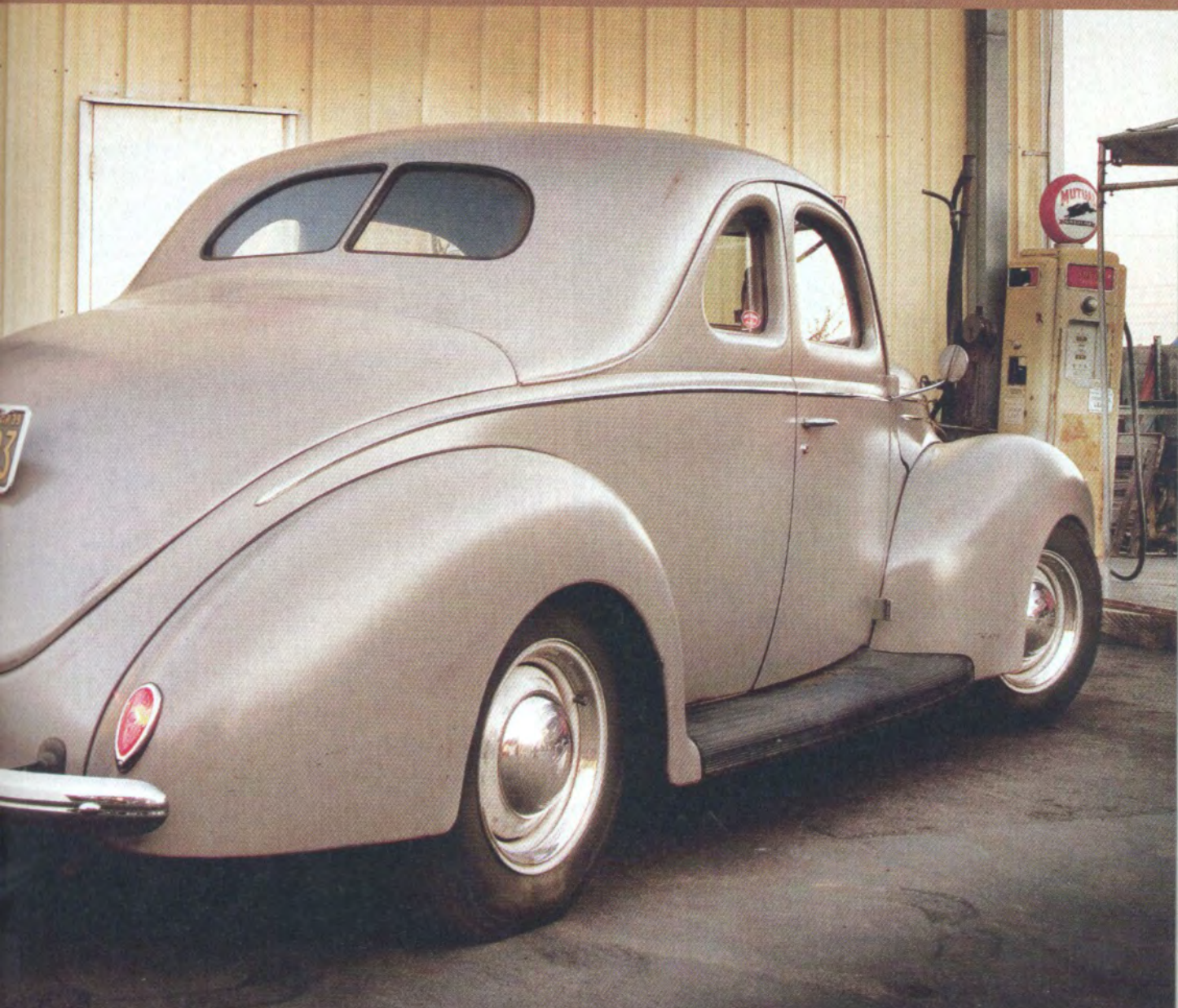
Make Chevrolet 700-R4
Converter GM
Shifter Gennie Shifter (Denver, CO)
Trans mods Torrance Transmission
(Torrance, CA)
Driveshaft custom

BODY

Body style / Material . . . coupe / steel
Body manufacturer . . . FoMoCo
Hood stock steel
Bodywork original
Paint type / Color . . . PPG / Gray-Green
Painter Scott Burowski

INTERIOR

Stereo Sony
Air conditioning Vintage Air (San Antonio, TX)
Wiring Painless Performance
(Fort Worth, TX)
Seats stock re-covered
Upholsterer Fast Ed's (Torrance, CA)
Material / Color leather / vintage brown
Carpet rubber matting
Seatbelts three-point



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