

HOT RODS & HOBBIES, TORRANCE, CA

Situated in three separate shops totaling more than 10,000 square feet, Hot Rods & Hobbies (www.hotrodsandhobbies.net) has plenty of space to have a multitude of killer projects going together. Last month, we brought you Helleanor, Gary Haw's HR&H-built '68 Mustang fast-back. This month, we swung by to see what's new and were greeted with some projects that cover the full spectrum of hot rodding. —CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL



HELLEANOR, ROUND TWO

Hot Rods & Hobbies is taking the expertise it put into Helleanor, Gary Haw's hard-core '68 Mustang (Sept. '06), and applying it to this '69 Mustang for Jason Pearce. The theme will be similar, with the drivetrain and suspension walking the thin line between street and race, but reliability will be a key aspect. The underpinnings will feature Total Control Products suspension pieces, including front and rear coilover conversions with a torque arm and Watt's link. Subtle body modifications, such as the flared rear quarters, are plentiful, but they are designed to blend into the factory lines and be easy to miss. Jason will command the 560hp stroked 351 Windsor and five-speed trans within the comforts of a custom interior covered in leather and designed to retain the original 1969 look and feel but with much higher quality execution.



PRO-TOURING MERC

Most bathtub Mercs are destined to be old-school cruisers with period-specific hot-rod appointments, but actor Matthew Fox (TV's *Lost*) wanted something a little more serious, so he tapped Hot Rods & Hobbies to construct this Merc with a much more modern hot-rod flair while keeping the classic looks. The body will get the standard-style Merc treatment, with a 3-inch chop and the full shave treatment, and a subtle rounding will be done to each corner of the body. A modified Art Morrison chassis outfitted with four-wheel disc brakes will make this tub handle like no other. Eighteen-inch Billet Specialties wheels will reside underneath, with a Ram Jet 502 and Turbo 400 trans providing the muscle. The interior will have a retro flair, with red leather and cloth inserts, while the exterior will be black with understated ghost flames.

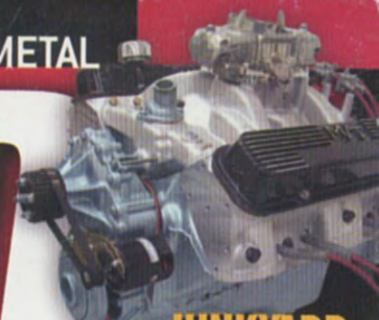


WHERE FORD LEFT OFF

Early Ford roadster pickups are cool, but production sadly only reached a few hundred a year until Ford ceased making them in 1934. With the odds of finding a solid original builder somewhere between slim and none, Brookville decided to step up and begin reproducing new, steel '32 Ford roadster pickup bodies. Hot Rods & Hobbies has Brookville's prototype body for the new roadster pickup and is finishing up the build for Larry Gimenez. Larry conceived the design and did much of the work himself, but he decided to hand it over to top-notch builders for the metal fabrication and paint. The body has been stretched 6 inches, with a custom aluminum top and one-off, original-styled bed by Eric Hanson of Scandinavian Street Rods. The body will rest upon a chassis from Kiwi Konnections, with a 392 Hemi and Turbo 350 trans putting power to a Ford 9-inch.

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HOT ROD WHERE IT ALL BEGAN