

Monthly Newsletter

Jan. 2008

Newsletter No. 0001

What's in This Month

Topic: What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 1)

Tip: How to Install a new Hood Bird

Spotlight: 78ta.com's Car of the Year 2007

Spotlight: Fbodywarehouse

Classifieds



What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 1)

Since this is the first monthly newsletter, I figured that I would start from the top and what to look for when purchasing a Trans Am. The best thing that is on your side when looking into buying a Trans Am is **Time**. It is always best to take your time when looking for a car to buy. This seems like a daunting task, but it will be worth it in the end. Now, I will not talk about buying a car in general, but more specifically about purchasing that old Muscle Car. In today's world, the best thing out there is the Internet. You can find anything you want on the web in a matter of minutes.

Do Homework.

The first thing to accomplish is to do a little homework on the Trans Am and find out exactly what it is that you want before you even start looking. There are so many different kinds of Trans Ams from Super Duty's to Special Edition's, to Anniversary's to Pace Car's and more. So, think about what it is that you would like to have before you even start searching for one. You will also need to think about whether the car you are looking for will be a completed project or restoration project. There are pro's and con's to each side of that coin. Purchasing a completed project or all original Trans Am is nice because you can buy it and start

enjoying it right away. Purchasing a restoration project is nice because you can then make the car exactly what you want it to be from the start. There is also nothing better than completing a restoration project taking the car to shows knowing that you finished the car yourself.

Set a Budget.

The next thing to do is set yourself a budget to work with and stick to it. Having a budget helps out as well with deciding on what kind of Trans Am you want to purchase. This is something you need to stick with throughout the entire process of buying a Trans Am. Don't go beyond your means or you might end up half way into something that you can't get out of or complete.

Start the Search.

Now that you know what you want to buy and how much you want to spend, it is time to start searching for that next car in your garage. Like I has stated earlier, the Internet is the best thing out there to find that Trans Am, There are so many places to start searching from specialized Muscle Car dealers, auction sites like Ebay, to online classifieds like Craig's List and Trader Online. Just go to your favorite search engine and type in the words "Trans Am for Sale" and see what comes up.

Coming Next Month:

What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 2)

How to Install a Hood Bird

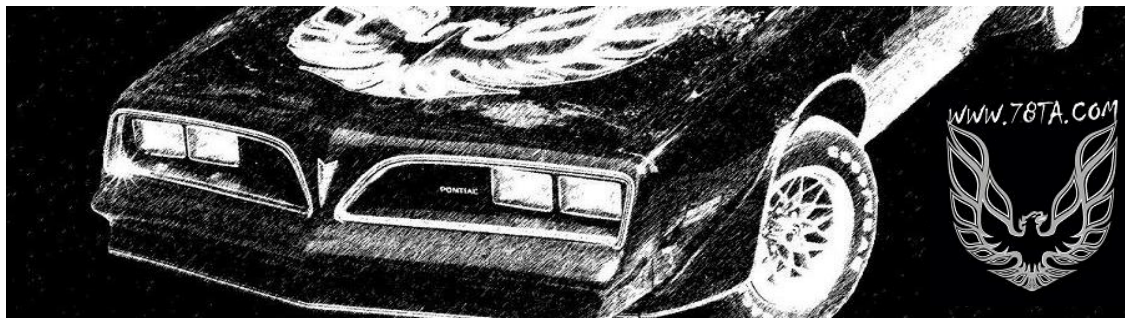
So your hood bird is a little faded or missing..... Well, it is time to replace that old worn out bird with something new. Phoenix Graphix in Arizona can sell you the correct hood bird for any year or color Trans Am. Once you get the correct hood bird, then it is a matter of removing your old and putting on the new. Now it depends on the age of your hood bird and what kind of history your car has had, but if the car has been cared for properly, then removing your hood bird can be done without damaging the paint on your hood. Most of the time you can use a heat gun to warm the decals up and peel it off of your hood. Once the old decal has been removed, make sure you clean your hood with a good adhesive and wax remover to get rid of any residual glue or wax build up. Once your hood is clean, use either a solution of soap and water (Dawn dishwashing detergent) or the Slide-On gel available from Phoenix Graphix to wet down your hood. Make sure the hood is completely covered and there are no dry spots on the hood. There are directions included with the decal kits and I also have measurements for the placement of the hood bird for download on my website. You need to remove the backing from the dceal which is best done with two people to assure that the hood

bird does not fold back onto itself. Remove the backing and lay the hood bird down onto the hood in the desired location. The soapy water or gel will allow you to reposition the hood bird and make sure that is it centered properly on the hood. Once you have the decal in the desired location, start at the center line of the hood bird and use the squeegee supplied in the kit to work out the sopay water from underneath the decal. Start at the centerline of the hood and decal and slowly work your way to the outside moving in



about 4 inch sections. You can pretty much see through the decal and backing any air bubbles that remain. Once that is complete, remove the backing from the decal and work out any remaining bubbles. Some very small bubbles could remain, but usually within 24 hours, those will disappear.





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Spotlight: **78ta.com's Car of** **the Year 2007** **1976 Trans Am of** **Mike Tyler**



There were so many reasons to spotlight Mike's 1976 50th Anniversary Trans Am for car of the Month in May 2007, but don't take my word for it, Mike's car took the overall "Car of the Year 2007" on the Forum as voted by the members. Now, this car is mostly original. There have been some modifications done to the car, but not too far to take away from the car's beauty. The car currently has less than 25,000 all original miles on her. Some of the light modifications include Edlebrock Intake, Custom transmission temp gauge, side pipes (oops, he removed those), and some minor paint touch ups and stripes enhancements over time. The car is as stunning sitting there today as it was from the showroom floor over 30 years ago. This is the car that started it all This was the first year since 1968 that you could order the Firebird in black again, it was the first year of the Special Edition "Y" Code Trans Ams, it was the first year for T-tops.... this car is what started the whole Trans Am craze and Mike is a proud owner of this part of Pontiac's History. This car has

become a part of Mike's Family... not only figuratively speaking, but this has brought him closer to his family as well since they all love to go cruising in the Trans Am on the few days we get here in Ohio of nice weather. Mike takes great pride in his car and it shows. He is a big part of this Trans Am Forum and others and also is a big part of the Ohio Firebirds Club. He plays a huge roll in the Ohio Firebirds with organizing the events and shows that the club attends every year. You can check out the full story on the Forum.

Spotlight: January **Fbody Warehouse**

Fbodywarehouse was founded by Pete and Heather DeFazio in early 2001. Pete has always owned F-series cars and while attending collage, as many collage students know he found himself struggling to feed his new wife and young son.

At that time he owned a 81 Z28 and decided to sell some spare parts left over as many of us have on Ebay. A few spare parts became a parts car, a parts car become two, and the wheels were "sold, boxed up, and set in motion"

7 years 2 children and a collage degree reserved for completion at retirement Fbodywarehouse has grown. Over the past 7 years they

Bring It Back !

For more information about how to help bring the Trans Am back, please visit:

<http://www.kevinmorgandesigns.com>



have dismantled nearly 700 70-81 F-series cars and have now converted to mostly all new reproduction and NOS GM products.

Fbodywarehouse now carries a product line that mirrors that of the "Wal-Marts: of the restoration parts industry. From Fbodywarehouse exclusive items such as one of the best and most comprehensive interior screw kits to complete interior and exterior packages. Fbodywarehouse has bought the casual F-series owner



products and services that larger companies do not.

Through the growth and expansion Pete and Heather still answer all calls themselves providing their clients personal and insightful information not found with other companies. Instead of the trend that is a burden of the industry where the person selling a product simply replies "Well my computer says" Pete and Heather have not only a full understanding of the products they carry but also have installed and removed these parts from literally 100s of donor vehicles..

Fbodywarehouse is large enough to be competitive price wise with the large companies yet still small enough to provide their customers attention not found elsewhere in the industry. Fbodywarehouse plans in 2008 to launch a division to help owners of nearly all 1967-2008 American built Muscle Cars as they launch a sister company American Muscle Restorations. Website:

www.Fbodywarehouse.com

423 949 6820

Ebay Seller: Fbodywarehouse

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1967 to 1981 Pontiac Firebird/Trans Am Restoration Manuals on CD—\$29.99

Includes Service Manual, Body Manual and Parts Catalog

Click here to Visit: www.78ta.com

Console Mounted Aftermarket Stereo Adapters 70-81 Firebirds \$49.99

Allows you to install a modern standard DIN Stereo/CD Player into

The map pocket area of the console for all 70-81 Trans Ams

Contact Randy at 502-759-3837 or W70442@hotmail.com

Hurst Hatch Reproduction Storage Bags \$159.00

Replace your missing or worn out Hurst Storage Bags for your

1976 to 1978 Trans Am with the Hurst T-tops.

Click here to Visit: www.78ta.com

1987—1991 GTA Trans Am Rims Restored Black \$950.00

If you Trans Am GTA Rims are looking a little worn out, replace them with newly refinished rims polished to a mirror shine.

Contact Brett at Hitman@89ta.com

