

Newsletter No. 0002

What's in This Month

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

Tip: How to Install a new Carpeting (Part I)

Spotlight: Spotlight of the Month February 2008

Spotlight: PUI Interiors

Classifieds



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

Ok, so last month we talked about how to get some background and information about the car by doing homework on it. We also talked about deciding what kind of Trans Am you wanted to look for and setting yourself a budget for your Trans Am or Project car. I also touched briefly on starting your search for that Trans Am. There are a lot of online places to search and like I mentioned last month, the best thing that is on your side is time. I can't stress this enough to take your time when looking at Trans Ams. There are a lot of places out there and a lot of Trans Ams for sale, so finding the right one for you will take a little bit of time and patience.

Don't Rush

With time being on your side, don't rush into anything and make an impulse purchase. Once you have in your mind what type of Trans Am you want, and how much you want to spend on it, then the task of finding one becomes much easier. While out there looking at the sites to purchase one, don't rush into it and purchase something that is *close* to what you want. You will only regret that later down the line. There are a lot of Trans Ams out there for sale.

Get that Feeling

When looking at the cars, your first instinct is usually the best one.

Meaning, if you look at a car and say to yourself... "Well, this kinda looks like a good car.", then don't do it. When I was searching for my Trans Am, I knew what I wanted and I waited for it. When I saw my car I said to myself "That's the one". You just get a gut feeling to know if that is the car for you. Once you get that feeling, then you need to start looking at everything about the car to make sure it is what the seller is telling you it is.

Crunch the Numbers

This is where you have to put that feeling aside for a minute and take a look at what is in front of you. The first thing to take a look at is all the numbers for the car. Does the VIN match?, Do the colors match?, does the engine match?, and on down the line. For example, if the guy is selling a 1978 Trans Am, is the VIN number 2W87Z8 With the "W" and "8" being the two most important numbers there. The "W" stands for Trans Am, and the "8" stands for 1978. If it is a black Trans Am with a tan interior, does the cowl read 19L and 19U for exterior body paint and a 64N for interior trim. Please refer to my site for the VIN and Cowl data tags information and numbers.

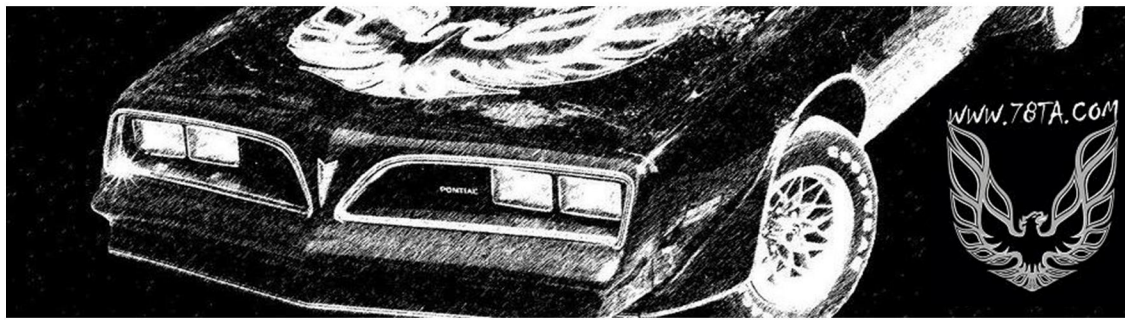
Coming Next Month:
What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 3)

How to Install New Carpeting

If your carpeting has seen better days, this is an easy and relatively inexpensive fix to that problem. Most of the major distributors have the replacement carpet kits for your car. The prices range from about \$99 to around \$140. This took me about 4 hours to do from start to finish. So for less than \$150 and 4 hours of time you will have a nice brand new carpet installed. Most of the interior encompasses just removing a few screws and bolts and you are on your way. The first thing that you need to do is remove all of your seats. For the lower seat back bottoms, you need to push back on them towards the trunk and lift up. For the rear seats back cushion, there are two bolts on the bottom of the seat. Remove those two bolts and the rear seat back will lift straight up and out of the car. The front seats are held in by four bolts on the four corners of the seat tracks. After all four of the bolts are out, the only thing holding you back from taking the seats out is the seat belt guide. You can push the guide all the way down and pry out the top half of the guide and the guide will come off. You now have to remove the center console. This also is a fairly easy process to do since there are only four bolts that hold the center console in the car. All the way up at the front of the console are two bolts that bolt to

the underside of the dash. Now, to get at the other two remaining bolts, you have to remove the center console box. Now, look inside the console box and you will see the last two remaining bolts that hold the console in. Now that doesn't mean you are free to take it out just yet. If you have a four speed car and no power windows, then you can put the car into second gear and lift the console out. But if you have an automatic car with power windows then there are a few more steps to take. Removing the power window switch is easy.... just unplug it. But the other thing you have to do on an automatic car is remove the shifter plate. To do this you need to pull out the shift button knob. The emblem on top just pulls out of there. Once that is out, there is a "C" clip on the shaft that you have to remove with either a clip removal tool or just a screwdriver and needle nose pliers will work. Once you pop that clip off, the shift knob will slid off. Now, all you have to do is remove the four screws at the four corners of the shift plate and remove that. When you are taking that out of there, there is also a light bulb that plugs into the back of that shifter plate that you have to remove. Once those are removed, then you can lift the console out. Now once that is all out of the way, you can remove your old carpeting.

Coming Next Month Part II



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Spotlight: **February 2008** **1981 Trans Am of** **John Milhauser**

Well, here we are in February and it still seems to be getting harder and harder to choose just one car for the Month. But after looking through all of the posts and topics and photos, this Trans Am



has always stuck out in my head. It is the 1981 Trans Am of Milly. For those of you who are frequent visitors of both here and TAC, then I really don't need to say anything more. After all, this car speaks for itself and so does the Owner. Milly has been into Trans Ams ever since he was young, and when the opportunity arose to buy one, he did just that. The car needed some work, but after all, don't they all. The car needed some tender loving care at first, but who better to give it that care than Milly. If you have ever had a chance to converse with John here on the forum, or in the chat room, or even had the opportunity to meet John in person and talk with him, you can tell he has a "Heart of Gold". You see it in how he treats his car, how he treats his friends, and more importantly, how he treats his Family. John is truly a "One of a Kind" guy. Over the years, Milly has done some minor, and also some major work to the car

including the replacement of the rear quarters and new paint all the way around.

So, if you get a chance at one of the upcoming car shows, check out his Trans Am, but more importantly, introduce yourself to Milly..... You will probably be impressed more with the man than the machine.

Check out the full story on the Forum.

Spotlight: **February** **Parts Unlimited,** **INC.**

Parts Unlimited, Inc (PUI) was founded in 1977 with a commitment to serve the automotive aftermarket industry. Since then, they have proudly continued the tradition of providing the finest quality interior restoration components available at the fairest possible price. Because of their extensive in-house capabilities, they are able to maintain nearly all of their quality control right there at PUI. They believe that quality is their future and stand behind their products.

Fbodywarehouse

For more information about purchasing OER Trans Am Parts, please visit: <http://www.fbodywarehouse.com>



For your convenience, their website allows established customers to check other inventory, view available products, and order online. This service is made available to expedite urgent orders and get you the information you need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Their quality trained staff is there to help you in finding the right parts to fit your application. They have an extensive line covering all the Firebirds and Trans Ams from 1967 up through 1989 and some beyond. From seat covers and door panels, to carpets and headliners, PUI has what you need for that quality interior restoration. Many of the hard to get items such as the 10th Anniversary seat covers and door panels are there. They have new products coming out which includes full seats for your early Firebird and Trans Am. They are complete from frames to covers. You need just take them out of the box and install. They also have a full line covering other makes and vehicles such as the Camaro, Grand Prix, GTO, Buick's, and more. They do not sell directly to the public retail, but you can visit their website for a list of distributors to find one near you. 78ta.com is also a main distributor of PUI's quality restoration parts.

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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 \$900.00

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

