

Start to Finish The eBay Motors HOT ROD Van

This madness involved everything we like: competition, contests, eBay Motors, good causes, and cool old vans. Well, maybe not the last part, but HOT ROD aimed to change your idea of what a cool project van should be, with the help of eBay and Mackey's Hot Rod Shop in Huntington Beach, California.

HOT ROD and three sister publications each purchased vehicles from eBay's auction site to reimagine using parts purchased mostly from eBay Motors. The magazine with the winning project, as voted on at BuiltFromEbay.com back in August 2012, got to choose where the proceeds from the auction of all four vehicles on eBay would be donated.

The magazines and projects were: *European Car* ('80s Porsche), *Four Wheeler* (Jeepster), *Lowrider* ('66 El Camino), and HOT ROD ('68 Chevy van).

The van was revealed to be a rusty heap once Mackey's tore into it, but it had a stout 350/400 engine and trans combo, and would soon be better with nitrous. Mackey's had the concept, the expertise, a wad of money, and six weeks build time to make our readers proud.

All four projects were completed for the '12 SEMA show in Las Vegas in November.

Lowrider took the prize, but you can see all the build episodes and bonus footage at BuiltFromEbay.com.

➤ HOTROD.COM/Thom-Taylor



After smoking over the condition and basically thrashing around town, the tear-apart began with what comprised the entire crew at Mackey's: Mr. Lee, Andy McDonough, and Brian Mackey.



[05.31.2012]

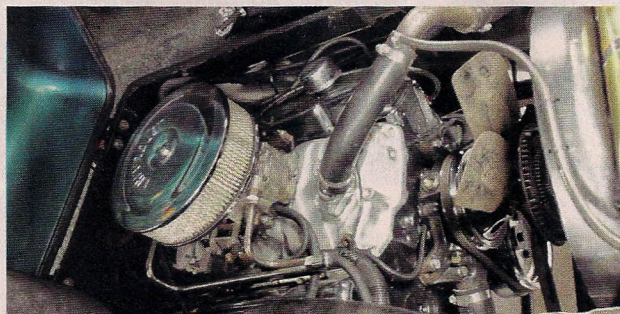


Our eBay van as initially delivered. It had a strong small-block and a line-lock for burnouts; all it needed was some nitrous and a ton of patch panels purchased off of eBay.

[06.01.2012]



Our initial, positive impressions were immediately dashed once we started picking around the rockers and fender bottoms. We expected some rust, as the van came from Ohio, but we were surprised by the patch panels used to patch previous patch panels (say that three times, fast). The floors were surprisingly solid, but even the A-pillars had seen the rust worm.



The 350 had seen drag-race duty in the past. Leaks were taken care of, and nitrous, headers, and a new carb were added. That was the extent of our attention to the engine.

GOT PICS?

If you've built or restored your car and have documented it in pictures every step of the way, we might be able to use your story in HOT ROD. Contact us to find out. Mail: HOT ROD Start To Finish, 831 S. Douglas St., El Segundo, CA 90245. Email: HOTROD@HotRod.com.