

Project Organization

The Organization and Steps of a Restoration Project



Summary of Topics

1. Assessment of your (or customer's) goals and expectations:

- Standards and philosophy of restoration
- Standards and philosophy of reinventing/reinterpreting the engineering and design
- Assess expected use of your automobile, driver, show, motor sports
- Assess value of your asset when finished, given the "standard" selected
- Value of "trailer queen" versus a fully commissioned car

2. Assessment of your restoration project's condition:

- Cosmetic — Metal, paint panel fit and gaps, wrong parts or finish
- Mechanical — Engine, brakes, suspension, auxiliary systems
- Electrical — Harness and components, previous repairs (e.g. charging), lights, ignition, accessories
- Frame versus monocoque or unibody chassis/body design
- Structural, chassis, body, doors
- Coach-built versus production bodies, metal on wood frame, aluminum versus steel
- Glass and rubber seals
- Parts availability
- Parts car

3. Project plan and schedule:

- Option 1 Disassemble for nut and bolt restoration; several years duration
- Option 2: Disassemble for cosmetic restoration; one year or less duration
- Option 3: Mechanical restoration system by system; several week-long or month-long projects
- Hot Rod: Restore and update or build from scratch using parts car(s)

Project Organization

(Continued)



4. Project organization by process and procedure:

- Sheet-metal repair, panel replacement (cut/weld or bolt-on), panel reproduction
- Preparation for painting, body, chassis, ancillary parts
- Electro-plating, trim (exterior and interior), fittings, standard hardware
- Mechanical restoration
- Project mobility during restoration (on wheels, chassis/body dolly, rotisserie)
- Disassembly (labeling, engraver, baggies, drawings, notebook, video camera, digital camera)
- Disassembly and repair of components; particularly those not intended for service; think about how they were manufactured

5. Project site:

- Restoration shops are rarely amenable to on-site owner participation — most expensive
- Home garage as workshop and staging area — best
- Storage facilities — second best but usually entails a lot of commuting
- Body shops to be avoided — ties up their facilities and parts may get lost or ruined

6. Project tasks:

- Research books, clubs, museums, experts; always question second source of information
- Research production variability; many times experts don't know this fully
- Build network of experts and service sources; lots of phone time and errands
- Build a library of catalogs, a list of internet sites, and join an internet "group"



7. Tools (Addressed in a Separate Session/Handout)

8. Project management (Addressed in a Separate Session/Handout)