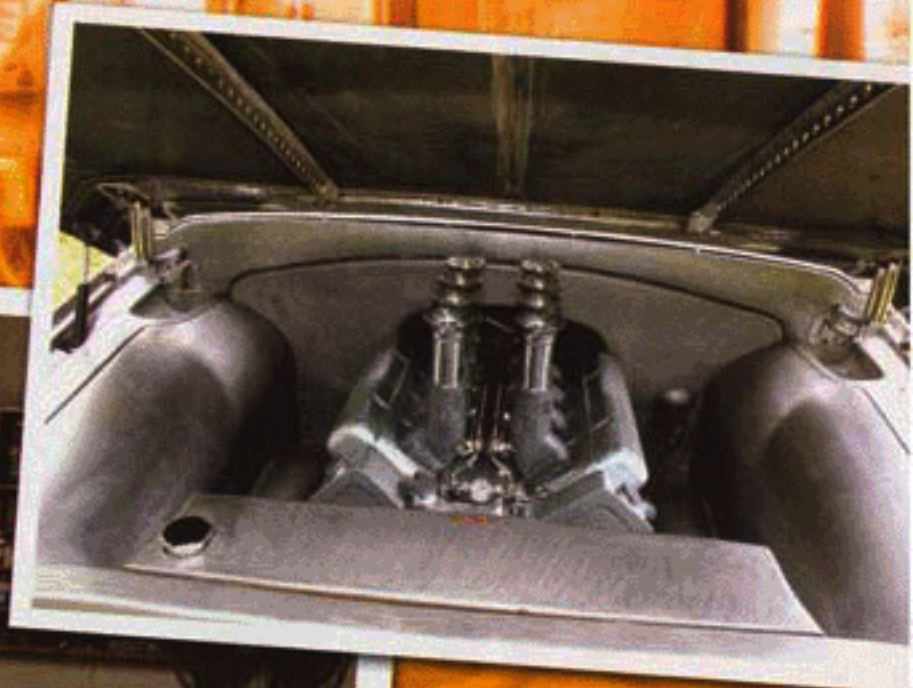


TEXT BY TRAVIS NOACK • PHOTOS BY JOHN O'NEILL AND COURTESY OF HIGH GEAR HOT RODS

BLOOD, SWEAT & GEARS

A Month-to-Month Look at our Readers' Dream Trucks



Over 50 handmade sheet metal panels, a one-off engine compartment, and a mild chop make this one of the hottest '68s we've seen.



(Above) The engine compartment belongs in a museum. Hours and hours with the English wheel and bead roller were endured to craft this doghouse. The centerpiece is a GMPP LS-2 topped with Kinsler fuel injection. The mill drinks from a Rock Valley SS fuel tank and behaves through Stewart Warner Green Line gauges.

(Left) From the side view you will notice a blend of traditional lines coupled with many hours with the welder and grinder.

BLOOD, SWEAT & GEARS

LIKE MANY OF YOU, THE STAFF OF STREETTRUCKS HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH CUSTOM TRUCKS FOR YEARS. Smooth sheet metal draped with custom paint and engine compartments stuffed with painted and polished horsepower producers are what keep us tossing and turning at night. Seriously though, the life of a true gearhead, no matter what type of vehicle piques their interest, is one of commitment. It takes dedication to build these rides that swallow up our weekends and call us out into the garage in the wee hours of the morning.

Knowing the financial commitment and time devotion an all-out custom truck can demand, we have started this new section called "Blood, Sweat & Gears" to highlight what our readers are welding, grinding and shaping into cool. Each month we will showcase in depth one reader-built project and tell you that individual's story, spill the beans on what the truck is packing in terms of modifications, and hopefully inspire you to complete your project or get started on one. Let the games begin!

THIS MONTH'S ENTRY PROJECT RETROACTIVE 1968 Chevrolet C-10 High Gear Hot Rods Little Rock, Arkansas

Project Retroactive is a 1968 Chevy C-10 that is taking shape at High Gear Hot Rods in Little Rock, Arkansas. High Gears' Rodney Payne, along with partner Butch Boyette, is building the truck for his father, Benny Payne. Featuring a highly worked over sheet metal envelope with 50-plus handmade panels, a one-off engine bay, a mild chop, and full length belly pans, Retroactive creates metal art at its finest. Goodmark replacement panels aided with troubled areas, and a GM Performance Parts LS2 topped by a Kinsler stacked fuel injection system help create the ultimate old school look. A COMP Cams camshaft, ARP hardware throughout the mill and F.A.S.T. XFI computer and harness ensure smooth run time, while noteworthy tunes come from a Flowmaster U-build it Kit with 50-series stainless microphones belting out the horsepower. Gear selec-

tions are made from a Hurst-commanded and TGI-flanked 4L60-E transmission sending driver commands to an Empire Driveshaft driveshaft and on down the chain of command to a 12-bolt rearend suspended by Classic Industries and dialed in with an Auburn Gear Pro Series limited slip. Hammering the chassis was accomplished with an Air Ride Technologies Big Red system, while halting the horsepower is done through Wilwood disc brakes. Completing the pavement-hugging stance are Colorado Custom Sugar City billets, 20 x 8 front and 22 x 10 rear, strapped in BF Goodrich KDW/TA-2 tires. Draped over the heavily massaged exterior will exist a mellow coat of green from DuPont Hot Hues line of paints, but for now we are digging the bare metal finish. Between the doors the interior will be sealed with Soff Seal weather stripping, Dynamat and a Vintage Air Gen II A/C system for comfortable cruising. Specialty Power Windows will be used for a modern touch as the Powermaster starter and alternator ignite the power and keep it idling.

These raw photos of Retroactive were just too cool to go unpublished. It's this kind of craftsmanship and commitment to quality that keeps our magazine alive and our readers motivated.

Keep following your custom truck dreams and send us images and information on your truck project. We want to hear your story.

SEND BLOOD, SWEAT & GEARS SUBMISSIONS TO:

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To view more build-up shots
of Project Retroactive go to
www.highgearhotrods.com.

