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The Retailer's #1 Resource

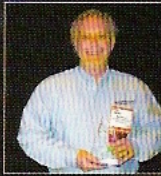
mobile

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ELECTRONICS[®]

INSTALLER Of the Year!

Mark Rainey Rises
From Amateur Competitor
To Rank With the Industry's Elite



PLUS:

- Retailers of the Year on Competition, the Internet and OEM Integration
- Sears – Out of Car Audio?
- Keeping the Peace With Commissioned Salespeople
- 9 Steps of a Classic Transformation

Inside Performance Zone: Project Vehicle Gets Suspension, Wheels and More

The Ultimate Muscle

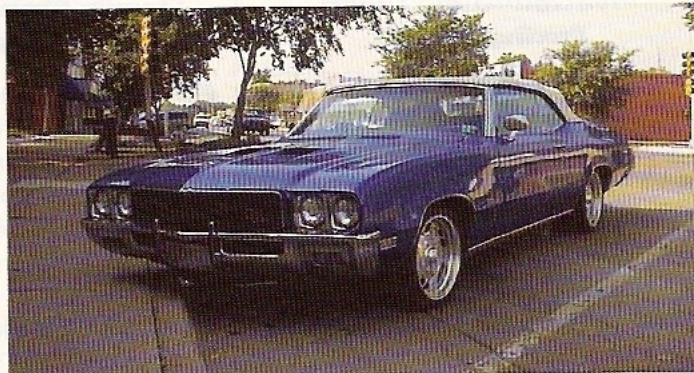
—Part One

By Jefferson Bryant

Put away the staples and the paint gun, you won't need them here! Welcome to a new series covering the unconventional build-up of a rare 1971 Buick GS convertible. This series features some techniques some of you have never seen before, but hopefully will open your eyes to some new thoughts on custom installation. This project features building a trunk lid monitor housing, installing nitrous oxide, as well as custom dash panels and the audio system. In part one, a unique trunk lid housing was built for a SAVV Mobile Multimedia 10.4-inch TV monitor and a pair of Rockford Fosgate 6.5-inch component speakers. Using a special technique in which hot plastic is engaged over a mold that utilizes vacuum to remove air from around the tool, a lightweight, strong and very durable part that can be painted, covered, and even molded into factory trim is created.

Special thanks go to all the sponsors for this project: Rockford Fosgate, SAVV Mobile Multimedia, Nitrous Express, Boyd Coddington Wheels, Kumho Tires, Dakota Digital, Select Products and Ohio Generator. ⚡

About the author: Jefferson Bryant has been in the industry since 1998, working in retail, where he competed in dB DragRacing and IdBL competitions. In 2002 he was named one of the Top 100 Installers by *Mobile Electronics* magazine.



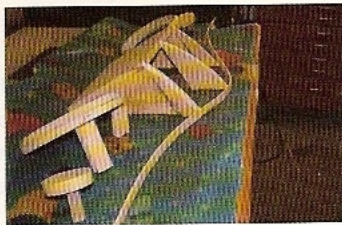
1. I started off by removing the trunk lid so I could have unlimited access.



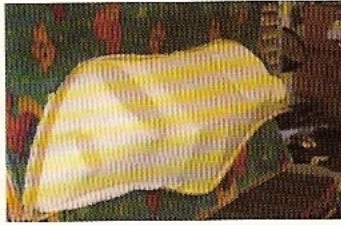
2. I built a frame of 1x5/8-inch MDF strips and CA (Cyanoacrylate) glue. This needs to be strong, as a lot of pressure will be applied later on.



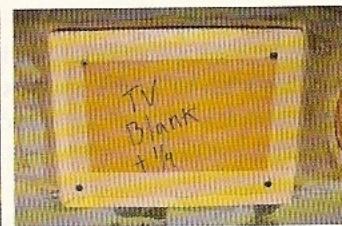
3. I laid up the frame with fleece attached with CA glue and coated it with resin, then started on the MDF patterns for the components and the TV.



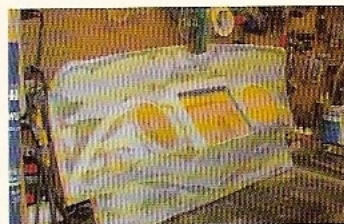
4. I used small blocks to get the pattern shapes. Note the three curved blocks in the center and the 1.8-inch thick strip of MDF forming a smooth curve.



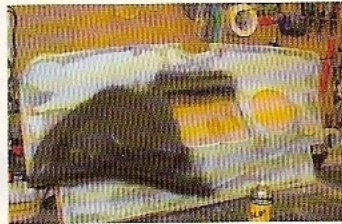
5. The housing, covered in fleece and trimmed. This gets coated with fiberglass resin. I cut out the back of the frame to glass the back of the pod.



6. A copy of the TV from MDF. The important thing here is to make it larger (about 1/4-inch) than the actual TV so it will fit after the plastic is formed.



7. After I built up the TV pod using Duraglass and Bondo, I sanded and smoothed the trunk lid housing. Eighty grit is more than enough.



8. I painted the mold with a spray-on graphite paint. This makes it easier to remove the plastic once it has formed over the mold.



9. I heated up a sheet of .140-inch ABS plastic in an oven and draped it over the mold. I applied vacuum and sucked the hot plastic around over the mold, making sure not to get plastic underneath so it can be removed easily once the plastic has cooled a little. The result is a plastic housing that is light, easy to paint or cover and very cool!