

SPECIAL: BED AND TONNEAU ISSUE



trucks

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THE ULTIMATE TRUCK ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

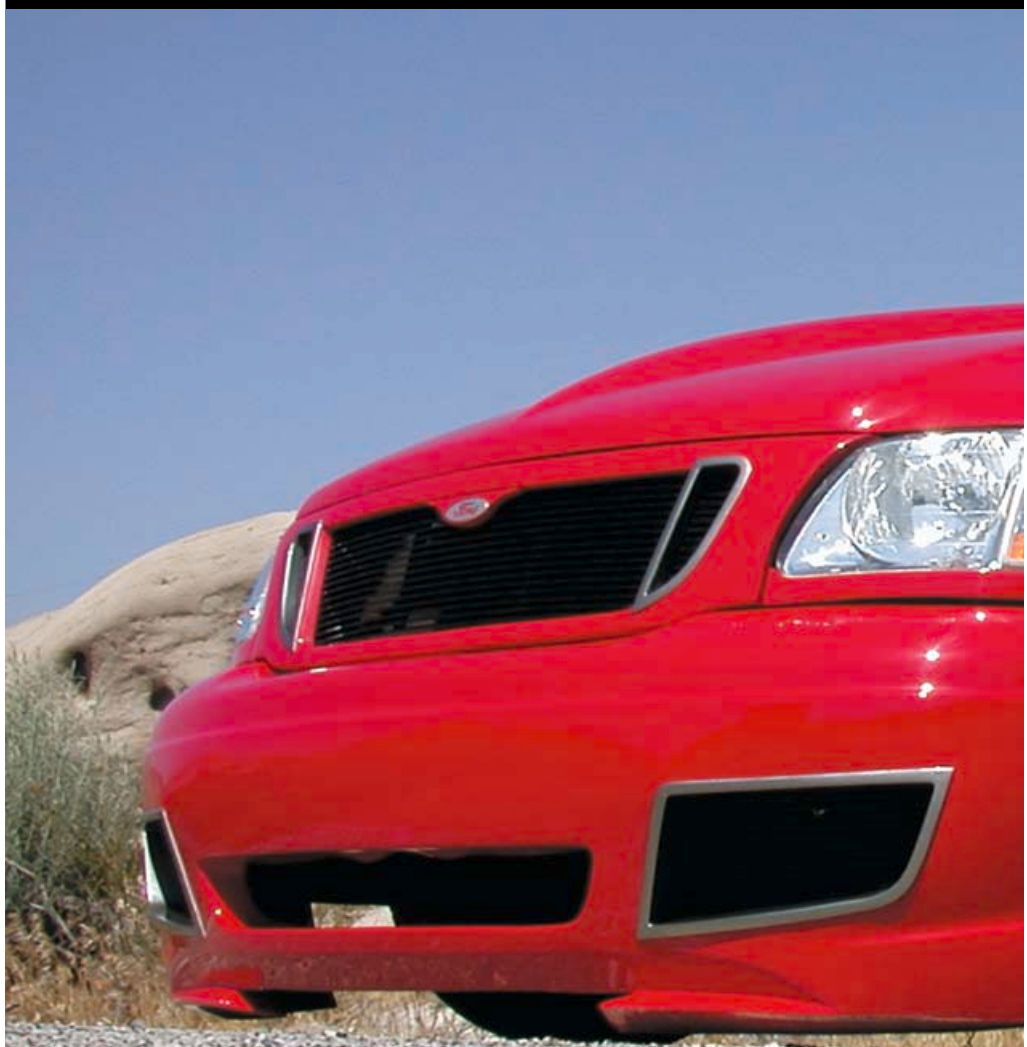
One of the most radical truck's we've ever seen is the Spedsturr built by Gaylord's. The company is well known for their fiberglass tonneau covers, but they often build vehicles that show off some of their latest innovations. The concept of this truck began with Bill Gaylord, who wanted to build a California, sports-style truck. Starting with a rendering, the truck was designed to somehow incorporate their new X-2000 tonneau cover, featuring a new set of Speedbumps that would give a classic roadster-like appearance.

Once the design was laid out, a stock 2003 model F-150 was literally cut and taken apart in order to create the finished look. The process involved cutting off the top of the truck, in order to give it the look of a traditional roadster. The windshield was also removed and reinstalled with an additional three-inch angle that lays it back further towards the driver. This not only gave the truck a more car-like appearance, it also had the effect of visually lowering down the front end. This area too received a 2.5-inch pie cut to the fenders that also helped to slant the front end down.

With a narrower and sleeker front end, the grille and bumper had to be modified as well. The factory grille was cut and narrowed with custom inserts. The front bumper is a Street Scene piece that was modified to fit into the new nose of the F-150 and to provide a smooth, sporty appearance. The hood was modified with a hand-made center hood scoop and in order to lengthen the area between the hood and windshield, a smooth cowl was added which eliminated the windshield wipers and provides a nice transition.

Along with the modifications to the front end, the bed was also highly modified. A total of two inches were cut and sectioned from the bed to narrow the rear and give it a tapered appearance at the tailgate. The bed steps were also removed and the entire area was filled to produce a one-piece looking bed without seams or hard edges. The roll pan was also custom made and molded into the bed and is used with a smoothed tailgate. If you're wondering where the taillights are, an Altec LED light strip was added between the top of the roll pan and the underside of the tailgate. Because of all the modifications to the bed, the company's standard X-2000 tonneau also had to be modified to fit the truck's new contours, yet it is fully functional.

A look at the Gaylord's Spe



Getting Speed

edsturr F-150



Up To

Story and Photo By: Dan Sanchez



Aside from the custom body work done on the truck, its suspension system is a key part to its overall appearance. The factory suspension was replaced with a complete Air Ride Technologies air-spring system, complete with air tanks and compressors that are operated via a push-button control panel in the truck's center console. The suspension system also uses a four-link with Air Ride shocks and nearly sets its rocker panels on the ground when the system is fully deflated.

With an open cab, the interior of the Speedsturr had to match the modifications done to the exterior of the truck. One of the first things you notice is the smooth transition between the bed and the cab. This was done by smoothing out the area and adding a center console which holds an Audiobahn video monitor and an Eclipse head unit. Don't look for a glove box or any air conditioning vents on this dash. It is totally smoothed with the only instruments being the factory cluster with an APC white-face gauge panel attached to it.

A Trezz billet, flamed rear view mirror hangs down from the windshield and a billet steering wheel from Intro features a three-spoke design that is the same as the truck's



1 There's lots of custom body work on this truck that extends past the three-inch raked windshield and the missing roof.



wheels. Since we're on the subject, the Intro wheels measure 22-inches in diameter and are mounted in Toyo Proxes S/T tires.

The seats and upholstery were also custom stitched and the head rests were added to the rear of the tonneau cover's Speedbumps to further enhance the "roadster" effect. The door panels are perfectly smoothed in two-shades of gray leather and you won't find any door

handles or arm rests, as the doors are opened automatically with the remote control.

Under the hood, the Ford 5.4-liter V-8 was treated to a Magnuson super charger that lies under the intake manifold and provides plenty of power. The exhaust system is handled by a Gibson muffler that features custom bent, dual 2.5-inch outlet pipes that exit out from the sides of the truck's rocker panels.

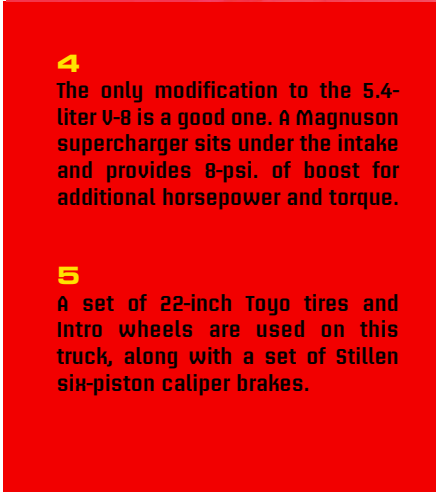
To say this truck is unique is an understatement, but it does point out that more can be done to a truck than simply bolting on aftermarket parts to it. Hopefully the amount of work done to Gaylord's F-150 will inspire others to try new customizing trends that may require lots of work to accomplish, but will radically change the way trucks are

TEN



2 Special mirror mounts also had to be fabricated to mount the Street Scene sport mirrors to the chopped and narrowed doors.

3 The most prominent piece on the truck is the Gaylord's H-2000 tonneau that features the company's Speedbumps on it.



4 The only modification to the 5.4-liter V-8 is a good one. A Magnuson supercharger sits under the intake and provides 8-psi. of boost for additional horsepower and torque.

5 A set of 22-inch Toyo tires and Intro wheels are used on this truck, along with a set of Stilen six-piston caliper brakes.



To say this truck is unique is an understatement



6

Under the X-2000 lid is a nicely carpeted bed that nicely conceals all of the trimming and body work to narrow it at the rear and smooth out the body lines.

7

The interior has been completely smoothed and includes a custom-made center console that extends from the dash to the rear of the cab and up to the bed.

8

The fenders were modified to lower the nose down and a new grille was built from the factory unit. The Street Scene bumper was also customized to fit the new F-150 nose.

