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Engine Hoist Helper - Speed Parts

From the April, 2011 issue of Car Craft

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We Read It

Sheet Metal Bible

This book landed on our desk about a month ago, and we've been perusing it ever since. It is a definite easy read and provides tons of good information without feeling like a textbook, or the actual Bible, for that matter. Information is presented in a series of vignettes detailing a few different builders making a variety of parts using steel and aluminum, from motorcycle tanks to Alfa-Romeo valance panels, and it is cool to watch sheets of metal get twisted, hammered, heated, shrunk, stretched, and rolled into shape. Yes, there are some expensive tools used in some of the processes, but there are a lot of clever, low-buck things used as forming devices, too. The best is an old tree stump one of the metalmen used to put a curve in a motorcycle fender (he also uses the seat of a wooden bar stool as a hammering block). There is plenty of good information on gas and TIG welding, too. Have a look.

How Much: \$29.95

Learn More: Sheet Metal Bible, by Timothy Remus; Wolfgang Publications; Stillwater, MN; WolfPub.com



Carbs for Mods

What It Is: Carbureted manifolds and distributor conversions for modular engines

Why You Care: Yeah, so the engines are huge and hard to swap into early unibody cars, but that shouldn't stop an ambitious builder. Electronics, on the other hand, can trip up even the best of us, and coming up with an engine management system for a modular swap can be enough of a hassle to keep people away. The guys at Jail Bait Cycles & Rods are fans of the mod motor and are advocates of swapping them into things. To facilitate that, they've designed a sheetmetal manifold that bolts to the engine's existing lower intake, and they can make it to fit any carburetor bolt pattern. Jail Bait also makes a kit that allows you to bolt a distributor to one of the cams through a fitting in the timing cover. With a carburetor and a cam-driven distributor, there is no need for an ECM, expensive sensors, or laptop tuning to keep you from putting a mod motor in your car.

How Much: They'll sell it all for \$1,099.00.

We Say: Now get to work cutting out those shock towers.

Learn More: Jail Bait Cycles & Rods; Republic, MO; JailBaitCyclesAndRods.com



Engine Hoist Helper

What It Is: The Pivot Plate from Mac's Tie-Downs

Why You Care: Make engine R&R a breeze with this new thingy from Mac's Custom Tie-Downs. You just bolt this sucker to your intake manifold and crank it to the angle you need to get your engine and trans out without scratching your firewall, fenders, front valance, or shins. The Pivot Plate was made to accommodate most two- and four-barrel carburetors, and adapters are available for LS and other fuel injected applications. It will lift up to 1,500 pounds.

How Much: Pivot Plate costs \$149.95. Prices for the adapters vary between \$50.00 and \$150.00.

We Say: This is the tool used in the Car Craft Engine Swap Challenge at Holley's LS Fest.

Learn More: Mac's Custom Tie-Downs; Sagle, ID; 800/666-1586; MacsCustomTieDowns.com



New, Better, Faster

What It Is: An attention-grabbing headline

Why You Care: Because MSD has totally redesigned America's favorite spark box. The 6A and 6AL have been around for longer than some of our readers; it's a staple of the industry and one of the first bolt-ons guys with distributors do to their cars. The new 6A and 6AL are fully digital, so they take less current to operate but deliver



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