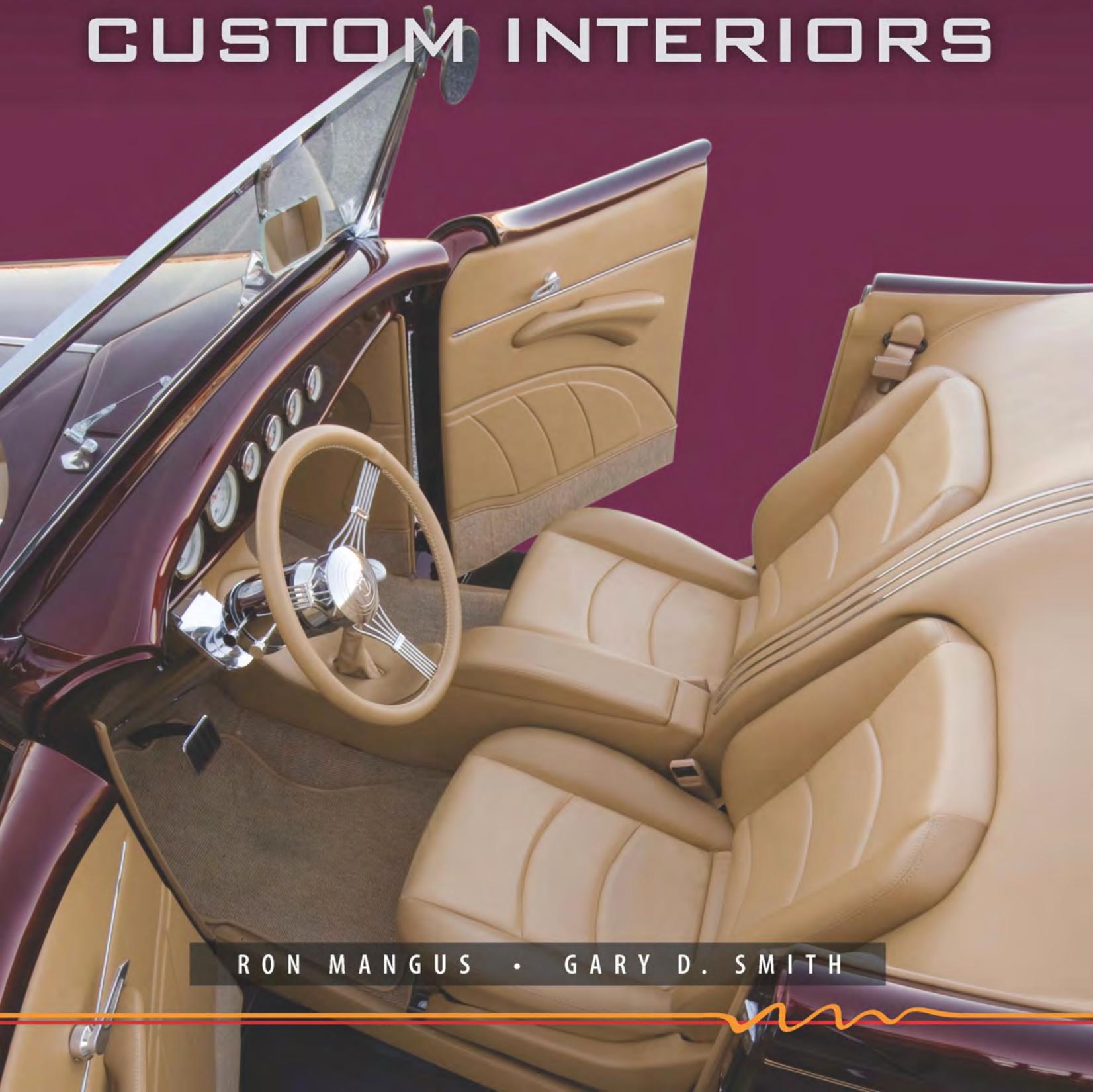


RON MANGUS' CUSTOM HOT ROD INTERIORS SERIES



FORD ROADSTER

CUSTOM INTERIORS



RON MANGUS • GARY D. SMITH

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FORD ROADSTER

CUSTOM INTERIORS

RON MANGUS
AND
GARY D. SMITH

California Bill's
Automotive Handbooks

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Ron started his stitching career in 1969 under the tutelage of his brother Ernie Yanez. Ernie provided special efforts over the course of twenty years in getting Ron started on the right track. Ron credits his brother for teaching him the auto upholstery craft and business, and providing a foundation for the reputation he enjoys today.

In 1989 Ron opened his own shop, Custom Auto Interiors, in Bloomington, California. During this era he also taught basic and advanced upholstery classes at San Bernardino Valley College for four years. Students who were talented enough to take his advanced course learned Ron's techniques for sculpting foam, creating molded headliners, and building custom door panels.

Soon after opening his own shop, a roadster with his interior won America's Most Beautiful Roadster at the 1992 Oakland Roadster Show. Ron's work has since received numerous Best Interior Awards at a variety of car shows.

Ron "The Stitcher" has become famous as a creator of fabulous interiors. From the 1990s through today street rod and hot rodding magazines have featured spectacular cars that show off his interiors.



Photo by Daniel B. Smith

The Riverside International Raceway in Riverside, California, is now a shopping center. But when Gary was a teenager, it was one of the premier road racing tracks in the country. When the Can-Am and Trans-Am came to town, Gary could be found at the Raceway, taking photos. Interest in cars lead to modifying his own street cars and local club drag racing. He crewed on a SCCA Trans-Am Corvette in the mid '70s.

Gary was also interested in car design. He competed in the General Motor's Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car design contest, and in 1969 enrolled at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, California. After graduating in 1973 with a degree in Industrial/Transportation design, he was recruited by General Motors Design Staff at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan. He worked there as a Senior Creative Designer in Pontiac, Buick, Oldsmobile, and Cadillac exterior design studios. He is responsible for the exterior styling of the Oldsmobile Concept car that lead to the 1992 Oldsmobile Achieva SCX coupe.

In 1988, Gary and his family moved to Arizona, and Gary started Performance Design, freelancing as an industrial/graphic designer and illustrator. Gary also became proficient in desktop publishing and computer graphics. He has been involved with many businesses as an art-director level designer and consultant. In 1996, Gary was introduced to "California Bill" Fisher. Through the relationship that has continued with Bill's son Howard, Gary has been involved in the creation of many automotive titles published by California Bill's Automotive Handbooks.

Gary D. Smith

How-to articles and finished car features showing Mangus' techniques and expertise have appeared in *Hot Rod, Rod & Custom, Street Rodder, Truckin', American Rodder, The Rodder's Journal*, and many more. Special cars with interiors created by Ron and his team include CheZoom and Aluma-Coupe of Boyd's Hot Rods, Billy "ZZ Top" Gibbons' Kopperhed, along with cars for Tim Allen, Pete Chapouris of SO-CAL Speed Shop, Linda Vaughn (Miss Hurst), Thom Taylor, Bruce Meyer, Kenny Bernstein, Robby Gordon, Sammy Hagar, Michael Anthony, Cory McClenathan, and James Brubaker of Universal Studios.

In 2000 Ron was asked to help create a special car for builder Randy Clark from Hot Rods and Custom Stuff of Escondido, California. Their 1949 Chevy Business Coupe won the coveted Ridler award at the Detroit Autorama in 2001. This car was featured on the cover of *Super Rod* in April/May, 2001. This car also won the prestigious "Yosemite" Sam Radoff Sculptural Excellence Award that recognizes both the interior and the entire concept of a car. Ron felt a great accomplishment in achieving these awards.

The 2005 Grand National Roadster Show Best Interior Award went to a 1968 Camaro convertible again upholstered by Ron and built by Randy Clark of Hot Rods and Custom Stuff.

Ron's striking two-tone interior was featured in Richard Tapia's '70 Chevelle winning the 2006 Houston AutoRama's Best of Show as well as Best Interior. This car also won Best of Show at Super Chevy in Pomona, and numerous top awards at the Grand National Roadster Show.

Eventually hot rodders knew Ron's work and reputation by name. So, in 2006, the original shop, Custom Auto Interiors, was renamed Ron Mangus Hot Rod Interiors.

Recently the 2008 Grand National Roadster Best Interior Award went to Ron's creation of Janice Groesbeck's 1956 Chevy convertible.

While Ron is at the highest levels of automotive design and creation, his best work may be yet to come.

INTRODUCTION

I hope you will find my passion and love for these cars in the photographs throughout the book.

What drives my passion? Where do I get the inspiration and vision for each project? Those questions have been asked of me a lot more frequently than you might imagine.

What people tell me is that when a car arrives here, I look at the car and learn about the person who owns the car and try to individualize it to his or her needs and ideas. As a result, every interior ends up with a unique design. I take each car under my wing and treat it like it's my own car and, unfortunately,

I have to give it back when I'm done. I show that passion to my customers, and they sense that when they come in. They feel welcome and, when the job is complete, they know that I have given them the best job with the highest craftsmanship possible.

As you are looking through the photos in this book you will find that, although there may be similarities in approach, each car is completed with its own special characteristics.

Ron Mangus



1



2

Ron's Shop

Ron Mangus Custom Hot Rod Interiors is a fast-paced business with tight deadlines. In spite of the rush, Ron pays attention to every detail, with no compromises when it comes to quality, craftsmanship, and design. His hand-picked, dedicated team works together seamlessly, creating the many subassemblies that make up a car's interior. He involves his customers in the design process, discussing the design, material selection, and helps them visualize his ideas on how to blend his customer's desires with the car's character to create a masterpiece.

1

Last minute details are addressed as a 1955 Chevy Bel Air is completed.

2

Ron's son, Ryan, is an important part of the business, and is fast becoming a rising interior design star in his own right.

3

A great friend, Pete Salas has worked with Ron for more than 25 years.

4

Ron is proud of his team for their dedication to quality and craftsmanship. They share Ron's design philosophy, treating every car as if it was their own.





3



4



Ron's personal attention to his customers builds long-term relationships, referrals, and repeat business. His "hands-on" involvement with every aspect of the design ensures originality and quality.



Ron's Hot Rods

1

"This '56 Ford pickup was my daily driver for 15 years. It's been in the family since it was purchased new and my son Ryan now has it. It was originally used on my father-in-law's chicken ranch."

2

"My '37 Ford Tudor Sedan broke new ground with a two-tone interior that matched the exterior. It was featured in the *American Rodder Collector Special Edition*, September 1996."

3

"I built this '32 from a Total Cost Involved chassis in 1997. It was painted in gelcoat so I could really enjoy driving the car. I could do a burn out and just plow through puddles. This was my rat rod before they reached their current popularity. It was a great car."

4

"I think I was the first to do a flame billet steering wheel. I should have patented the design!"

5

Ron's T-Roadster, taken in 1988. "The car was fast. It would shift out of low at 65 mph. I had to drive slowly over bumps and approach driveways at an angle because the oil plug was really low, and I didn't want to knock it off. The whole family would crowd into the car to go to cruise night. Ryan and I got caught in the rain more than once. We had a lot of fun with that car."

6

"Having always had a passion for motorcycles I began riding again about eight years ago. Being childhood friends with award winning motorcycle builder Jerry Covington (Covington's Cycle City, Woodward, Oklahoma) allowed me to use one of his rolling chassis. Another friend Dean Padie built this bike."



1

2



3



4



5



6



SO-CAL'S '32 Ford

You've no doubt seen SO-CAL's 1932 Ford in magazines, and perhaps in person. It's a rolling billboard, advertising SO-CAL's line of hot rod products. What you might not have realized is that Ron Mangus did the interior. This car was completed by SO-CAL in September 1999.

The SO-CAL '32 Hi-boy started a revolution in hot rodding in the '90s. They offered complete turnkey cars, or a customer could purchase all the parts necessary to build his own. It was a real trendsetter, bringing back the nostalgia of old school hot rodding. This car features the time-tested trademark logo and red and white paint scheme SO-CAL's founder Alex Xydias used for all of his hot rods, race cars, and tow vehicles in the early '50s, including the famous Belly Tank racer that ran 198 mph at Bonneville in 1952.

Ron's traditional brown tuck 'n roll leather interior is perfect for the car, adding the authentic touch that no doubt contributed to the car's commercial success. The seat is comfortable and offers ample padding and lumbar support uncharacteristic of the '50s when little attention was paid to creature comfort. The interior has held up incredibly well for so many years considering the use the car gets as a demonstrator and vendor display car.

Body: All steel by Brookville Roadster, Inc., Brookville, Ohio
Paint: SO-CAL Speed Shop, Pomona, California
Engine: Chevy ZZ 430 Chevy
Drivetrain: 700R4, Ford 9-inch rear end
Chassis: SO-CAL Speed Shop, Pomona, California
Wheels: 16" SO-CAL knock-off Hot Rod
Tires: Firestone, front: 5.50"×16"; rear: 7.50"×16"







When Pete Chapouris started to build these SO-CAL roadsters, he called on Ron to design an interior that went back to the roots of the '32. Ron proposed chocolate brown leather with matching German square-weave carpet to keep it simple and nostalgic.

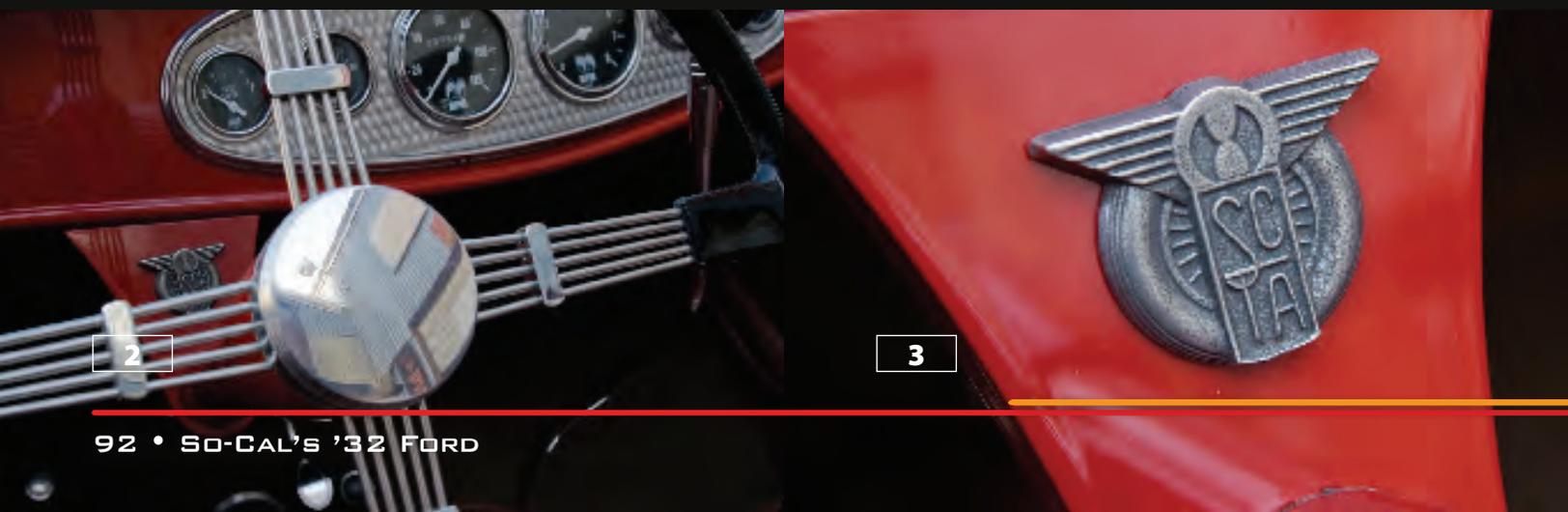
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Ron's design looks great and has several practical and functional features. The carpet on the lower edge of the door and kick panel are nice design elements and also protect the lower surfaces against scuffing.

2
SO-CAL's banjo steering wheel is at home in this roadster. The straight spokes go great with the straight three inch tuck 'n roll pleats.

3
On the steering column support a Southern California Timing Association medallion reminds us of the rodding world of the late '40s.

4
Straight forward pleated door panel design has a smooth leather upper and carpeted lower edge.

5
Kick panel pockets, pleated to match the door, provide needed interior storage for loose items.



2

3



1
The trimmed down Glide Engineering seat reclines, slides forward and backward, and the seat back is low enough to slide underneath the edge of the body providing additional legroom.

2
The simple instrument panel with its oval engine turned cluster, banjo steering wheel, and tall shifter are all the right things that belong in a traditional '32.

3
The interior door handle is a '32 design with a chrome bezel.

4
The piping starts on the kick panels, runs through the doors, onto the rear quarter panels, and lines up with the piping on the seat back.

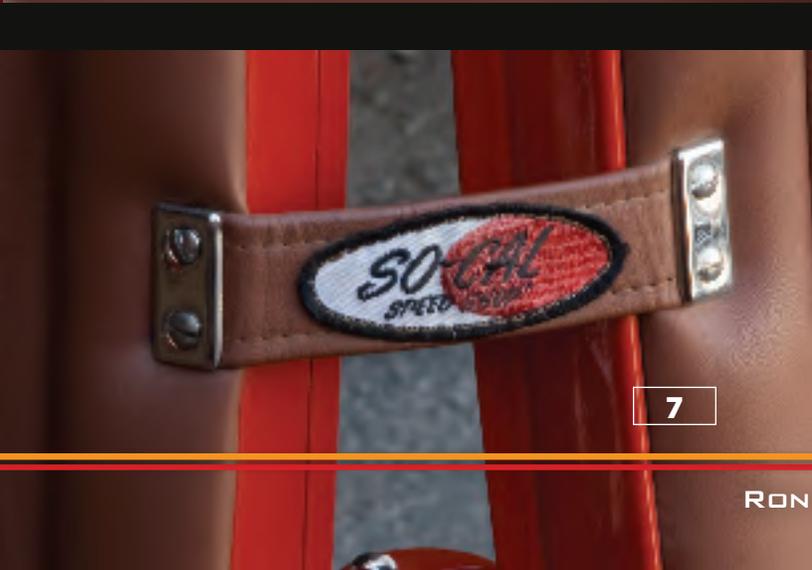
5
Located to the right of the gas pedal, just like in the '30s, is a small round actuator on the floor for setting the cruise control. It was a mechanical device then.

6
Both shifter and brake release leather boots are double French stitched.

7
Door check straps have the SO-CAL logo.

8
German square-weave carpet is installed without close-out panels to make use all of the available trunk space.







FORD ROADSTER CUSTOM INTERIORS

Ford Roadster Custom Interiors will inspire you with 18 examples of award-winning interiors by Ron "The Stitcher" Mangus. Many different 1929–1935 Ford roadster interior design styles are shown, from the retro look to the unrestrained show stopper. Get a detailed look at creative interior design solutions for seats, door, kick, and rear quarter panels, carpet, mats, headliner, trunk, seat bolsters, and many other interior design areas.

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Gary D. Smith graduated from the Art Center College of Design and worked for General Motors Design Staff, assigned to several production car studios. Now he's involved in graphic design, illustration, writing, and photography as a freelance designer.

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Authors: Ron Mangus & Gary D. Smith

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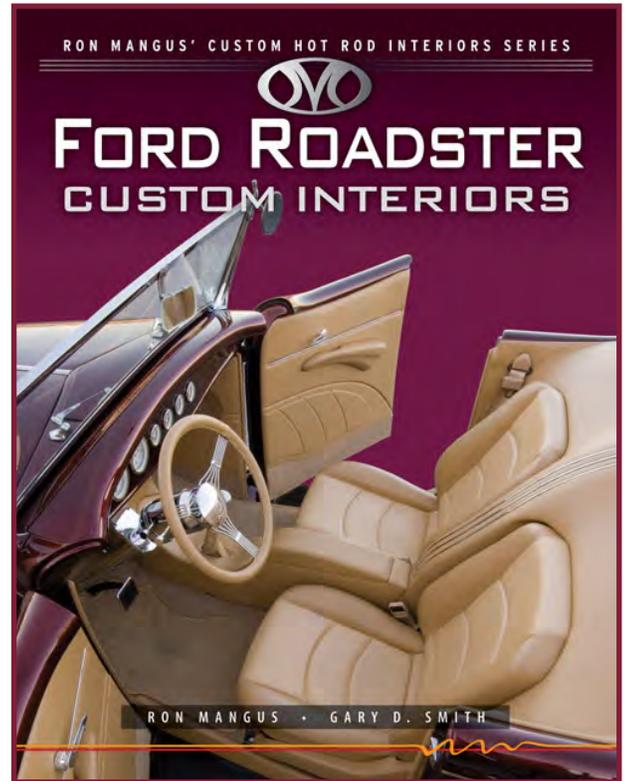
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CLICK TO
PURCHASE



So-Cal's 1932 Ford



Matt Tachdjian's
1932 Ford Muroc



Ron "The Stitcher" Mangus learned his trade from his brother Ernie Yanez. Ernie provided special efforts over the course of twenty years in getting Ron started on the right track. Ron Credits his brother for teaching him the auto upholstery craft and business.

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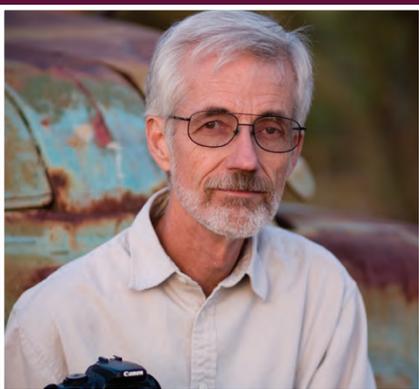
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Jim St. Martin's
1932 Ford



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