

I just returned from the Dana Point Concours and it was spectacular! There were more cars participating this year than ever before; and the quality of the cars was just outstanding! The setting for the show is hard to beat, parked on a hill overlooking the boat harbor, with the Pacific Ocean in the background, what a perfect setting for a group of spectacular cars.

There was a preservation class for unrestored cars; it's amazing that you can find a 1963 Porsche with 38,000 original miles on it. Not to mention the fact that the original paint was in great condition! The neighboring car was a 1962 coupe with 28,000 miles on the odometer, not to be topped by the next car; a Carrera with 16,000 miles on it. I have to admit that the paint wasn't nearly as nice (this was the DuPont car in last month's magazine)! That was just the front row! There was at least 15 or 20 rows of beautiful cars, each one with a story to tell. Fully restored racecars and cars fresh out of the restoration shop, all of them stunning in their own way.

We had a Porsche tractor with a trailer that was taking kids for a ride all day long. The kids enjoyed the novelty of the ride and it made for a great photo op for the parents. This guy spent his whole day entertaining the kids, what a great guy! Thanks for your devotion to the Porsche experience.

There were cars that had never been touched their whole life, to cars that received 1200 hours of restoration work. There were more well maintained beautiful Porsches than I can remember ever seeing in one place. Judging from the reaction and excitement of the crowd, this year's show had to be the best ever!

What I'd like to talk to you about this month is how the average guy can improve his or her score when showing your car. Now for you folks that have a few trophies under your belt (bear with me) I'm trying to breed some new competition for you! So, here are a few tips that may help you better prepare for the next outing.

Preparation

1. Plan your time. You've heard it before, but it's so true. Think about how much time you have to donate to cleaning your car before the show and plan accordingly.
2. Clean your work area. A clean garage will bring better results.

3. Good lighting. If you don't have nice lighting, get it. If you can't see it, you can't detail it!
4. Clean towels. Diapers, Micro-fibers and Terry cloths
5. Supplies. Have your favorite waxes and polishes ready for action.

Outside

1. Polish, wax and clay your cars finish. Do a nice job because this is the first impression that the judges will get of your car.
2. Use a detail brush to remove all wax residues.
3. Polish all brite work. Polish all chrome window trim and all deco trim pieces.
4. Treat all rubber surfaces.

Inside

1. Vacuum the complete inside. Vacuum under the floor mats, around the pedals and the side pockets. Clean the rubber mats with a scrub brush and some cleaner. Remember, the mats will take some time.
2. Dust the underside of the dashboard. The judges like to check who's really going to extreme measures to win this competition.
3. Check the lip, the steering shaft and the top of the radio.
4. Clean the seat tracks. Move the seat as far back as it will go and clean the track with a small brush. This will improve your score.

Door Jams

1. Spend more time than you ever thought possible cleaning the jams.
2. Clean the bottoms of the doors.
3. Clean the locks and the catches.
4. Clean the rubber seals.

Presentations

1. Little things make the difference to the judges.
2. Make sure the steering wheel is straight.
3. Make sure the seat belts are tidy.
4. The spare tire strap is straight.
5. The Porsche crest on the hubcaps should point toward the valve stem.

Car shows can be a great experience, please relax and enjoy them. If you decide to show your car, work hard, keep your eyes open and do the best job possible. Remember this is a hobby and meant to be fun. Monday morning comes quick enough.

Wax on Mark