

A barn find, "oh what a beautiful thing." Some people are so lucky to come home with the car anyone would be happy to own. Once in awhile you hear of a car that got left behind for one reason or another. The car is left sitting and then they forgot about it. Some of the cars had an enthusiastic owner and started the restoration process and so realized that he bit off more than he can handle. Some cars developed a motor problem and just parked it for a while; let's say 18 years or so. You also find that some folks pass away and the spouse didn't want to part with the car at that moment. Most of the barn finds end up parked right next to the barn on the outside. Then they use a cover that was ten years old, and after the wind and rain for the last seven years, it now is a mere torn up old sheet. The poor car got pretty weather beaten, but there is enough to start a restoration project and return the car to its original glory.

I'm just guessing that very few cars got put away properly. I'm always amazed when you hear of a car that was stored and the owner resisted the temptation to drive the car on the perfect summer day.

I got a phone call from a gentleman that asked me if I would be interested in detailing his latest purchase. I said I would be glad to be involved with this kind of project. So we arranged a time to meet and take a good look at his car. We talked about the car and what his future plans are with the car. The car was a barn find and will benefit from a complete detail. Now the car is in excellent condition. The paint was oxidized and there's mud on the bottom side, along with spider webs and a layer of dust and dirt. With some detailing magic and a whole bunch of time, this car can look like the day it left the factory.

This car happens to be one of those that only comes around once in a life time, and usually you hear about it a month after it happens, or the day after you just paid off the contractor that been remodeling your house for the last two years.

This car is one of the best preserved cars I've ever seen. This car got put away and never touched. Nothing has fallen on the car while it stayed in the garage for over 35 years. No scratches from the bicycles or the lawn mower. Nothing is missing. The car just got put away properly and that's where it stayed for all those years. So very rare. This car has only traveled 735 miles in its life time. Just a mere 3 tanks of gas has been run threw the motor. Everyone one is amazed how well the rubber has held up. There are no cracks anywhere or any shrinkage of any kind. The seats are in excellent shape and the carpet looks new, and the car even has the new car smell. How lucky can you get?

The over all condition of this car is fantastic, but there's still a lot of detail work to be done to return this car to its original glory. The paint is oxidized and needed some extreme polishing to remove years of lack of attention. The bottom of the car was loaded with spider webs and mud that they happen to find a long that 700 journey. So the work begins, starting with the bottom of the car. Now this car still has all the Cosmoline coating on the bottom to prevent any rust that might happen during the long boat ride to the states. This coating is the first thing to go after you

buy the car, but for this car the coating remained. As you look at this coating, you can tell that the nuts on the valve covers have never seen a wrench. This adds to the uniqueness of this car knowing that nobody has even adjusted the valves. The owner wants to keep the cosmoline coating on the bottom to let everyone see just how they applied it. They were very generous in some spots and a little less in others, but that's the way the car was delivered. The work starts with cleaning the under side by removing all dirt and unwanted spider webs and any thing else I could find, but leave the coating alone. Once the fender wells, suspension, and bottom pan was clean it was time to start working on the motor. The motor needed general clean up by removing the dirt and grime, but here again we wanted to leave the Cosmoline coating alone. Just as it was delivered.

The paint was the next thing to work on. The paint needed cleaning and polishing, and then the final waxing. This took some time, being very careful when I was compounding and polishing the paint. The paint responded very well and the car looks brand new. It is nice when a plan comes together.

Now with the hard parts finished, there still is a lot of detail work to be done. At least the list was getting shorter. The trunk and the inside were much easier to clean, as they haven't seen much use. With the door jams and all the minor things that are included with a complete detail and I knew I was on the home stretch.

By the end of the project this car shaped up extremely well. The owner is happy with his "new" car and can't wait to take to the car shows and show off his prized possession. Unfortunately he won't be driving it there.

Wax on, Mark