

# PLANNING YOUR CARS INTERIOR

*"Everybody's tastes are different so don't be afraid to speak up and say what you really want"*

Talk to your chosen trimmer well before you start. Make sure the trimmer understands what you are trying to achieve and that the quality of workmanship is what you want. The trim is often what lets the overall appearance of the vehicle down.... It can have the hottest engine, loudest sound system and best paint job...and a ho-hum interior because you never put enough thought into it before you started.

Over the years, I've had all sorts of vehicles through my workshop, from classics to rods, customs to daily drivers, and so often I see the same problems coming in with vehicles not really ready to be upholstered....with bits and pieces missing or just not fitted...or the owner unsure of what needs to be done before the interior goes in.

So I thought I would try and answer questions, solve some problems and give some general guidance to make building or restoring a vehicle's interior a little easier.



## ORIGINAL INTERIORS

If you're restoring a vehicle back to original, take photos, get original photos from sales brochures or workshop manuals and keep all the old materials for patterns and samples for matching. Check with your trimmer to see what original materials can still be obtained and what has to be made to look original.

Now everybody has different skill levels... but the more complete your vehicle is when you give it to your trimmer....the easier it is for him and ultimately saves you money. For example, have all the mouldings and trim pieces screwed into place with all the correct screws fitted. This could save hours of sorting bits out.

Also have the wiring and plumbing in place, keeping it neat and flat so it's easier to hide under the carpet or trim. Your doors should also be fitted up with all internal parts, glass, locks, etc., so that the new door trims

don't have to be removed later, risking the chance of damaging them. Keep all the old trim, no matter how bad it looks it may be needed as a pattern.

Talk to your trimmer if you're changing things from original, or if it's a fully modified car or hot rod....get input from your trimmer in case your modifications need to be changed to better suit the trim. Easier to do this at the planning stage than later on.



## CUSTOM DESIGN

It helps the trimmer to be given photos, magazine pictures, and even your own drawings of what you would like. Remember, it's your vehicle and you're paying for it, so let's work together to get it the way you want it.

Yes. You will still need to be guided by your trimmer as to what works and what doesn't....but everybody's tastes are different so don't be afraid to speak up and say what you really want.

Your choice of fabric is the same, bold or subtle, it's up to you. Keep in mind that trends change and you don't want your vehicle to look outdated too soon... that's why so many choose leather, it doesn't date like trendy fabrics and if it's looked after it will serve you well. Remembering leather does need looking after and fed just like your own skin.

Don't think that the trim will hide all the

lumps, bumps and gaps....it won't. Also the closing gaps around the doors need to be checked. Make sure that gaps are even all around where the windlacing or pinchweld meet the door. If the gap is uneven, this can cause the doors to be hard to close or air leaks and to later adjust may need cutting and welding so this needs to be addressed prior to painting.



If seatbelts are to be fitted for the first time, set them up before the body is painted. The same goes for different seats, it's far easier setting up seats when there is no paint to worry about scratching or burning when welding brackets into place.

Finally remember it's your vehicle and your money....so communicate with your trimmer early in the planning stage and this will help you get the results you want with a minimum of stress and fuss.

This is a very broad outlook and every vehicle and every trimmer is different....but it should give you some information into what you should be thinking about and doing prior to getting your vehicle trimmed.

Happy restoring.....

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*When you want it right the first time!*



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