

Profile

MARK LANSDON'S CUSTOM '73 LAS VEGAS SHOW CAR

In early 2001 I made the decision to build a "one off" VW instead of purchasing a new BMW motorcycle. At the time I was living in Denver Colorado and I was planning a move to Las Vegas. With all of the bright lights and flashiness of Las Vegas, I really wanted something that was different and would stand out from the crowd. So I decided to lower my Thing. It would have been a hell of a lot easier to raise it!

With the help of some co-workers and a few buddies, I got the car stripped and sandblasted. Once it was ready for paint, I dropped it off and had MAJOR issues with painter. After a lawsuit, a second paint shop, and even more of my hard earned cash later, I got the paint done. We had to undo some of the first shops blunders and perform some "rustoration." By Vegas standards, this car would have been sent to the crusher!

While we were working at straightening the body, I added a motorcycle gas tank filler and filled the holes left by the removed side panels. Once it was they way I wanted it, the Thing was shot New Beetle "cyber green." The color was picked out by my wife and I added some phantom [Ghost] flames.

Like most VW nuts, I had been scouring the swap meets, researching, the catalogs, and trading for all the parts I needed to put the car back together. When I sent the car to paint, it wasn't even a rolling shell! Once I got the car back, I called on my buddies again and we put it back together in record time. Without the help of my guys in Colorado, there's no way I could have gotten the car to its first show on Halloween.



In December 2001 I made my way to Vegas. Today, the car still needs lots of work. (like most VWs!) Its a on going thing now. The paint is a couple years old now and it needs to be redone. Likewise, I'm planning a new interior and will be installing a new wiring harness soon.

I have won lots of awards with the car and it is a total blast to drive! I have redone a lot of items on the car so they would get done right. I've got a lot invested in my Thing, but its all worth it when you get behind the wheel and brake the tires loose in 2nd with a mustang wondering what just happened. 🚗

Engine:

Type 1 Engine Built By: Joe Boreio
1915cc displacement
Dual Weber 44 IDFs
Custom made header system

Interior:

Metal Flamed Tunnel
Berg Shifter
Low Back VW Seats