

November 21, 2007
20th Status

Big milestones to report this time!



The fenders, gas tank cover, and splash aprons have been painted, wet sanded and buffed. The picture above shows the front fenders, splash aprons, and gas tank cover are mounted, and the chassis is ready to receive the body. The fenders will have to be partially removed one more time to install the welting and the correct hardware. The hood, bumper brackets, running boards, emergency brake handle, garnish moldings, trunk rack, and tail light brackets were also painted and have been put away for later installation. In the picture below, the freshly painted dashboard is mounted to the body. The bare steering column is temporarily clamped to the bottom of the dash, so the car can be steered more easily when moving it about during assembly.



All six wheels have now been painted. The tires have been mounted and put on the car. Tubes with the original type nickel valve stems and caps were used. The rear fenders have also been mounted. The picture below shows my friend Tommy with the coupe, just before we loaded it onto the trailer to bring it home. After a year in his shop, I'm sure Tommy was glad we finally completed this stage of the project.



My little coupe is now home and I've driven it up the street a couple times. It runs and drives great. The Mustang seat that I clamped to the floorboard is a little low, but I can see just well enough over the cowl. No windows, hood, floorboards, or door latches are attached yet, but I can enjoy it, just as it is. I tied the passenger door shut with a towel, and I hold the driver's door shut with my left hand. The distinctive sound of straight cut gears can be heard as I accelerate, through 1st and 2nd. Such excitement! It's a trip back in time!

When looking at pictures of engines in other '31 Chevrolets, I noticed that most had brackets for routing of the spark plug wires, and conduits for taillight wires were visible under the rear fenders. Mine should have both of these items too. In examining the toe board, I realized something else was missing. With some research, I determined that a metal plate with a foot rest should be fastened to the bottom center. My friend Don advised that he had that item, which is called a toe board pan, as well as the ignition wire brackets and taillight conduits, and shipped them all to me.

The car is now in the stage I enjoy most, final assembly. In preparation, I've ordered and received hood catches, latches, lacing and bumpers, fender well cushions, pedal grommets, firewall grommets, headlight grommets, dash knobs, the firewall insulator, and an inside mirror glass. To be ready for the rest of the dashboard assembly, I've verified that all the gauges work, cleaned them up and installed their re-plated bezels. Lots of other parts need to be ordered, but I have enough on hand to keep me busy for awhile.

Sid Carey