

Why Not a Truck?

If you're looking for an interesting old vehicle to fix up, why not a truck? That was the conclusion that Don and Helen Jensen came to about 7 years ago when they purchased their 1964 Chevy C-10 long bed pickup.

"I was looking for something and didn't know what," Don said, "and Helen said one day 'Why don't you get a truck?'"

Not long after that, Don found the '64 Chevy shown here.

When they bought the C-10, Don intended to simply paint it and use it for a driver. But as they were preparing it for paint, they kept finding little rust spots, and Don wanted it done right, so he felt compelled to fix it up right. They painted it 1969 Camaro yellow with a white top and he was very pleased with the outcome. But it wasn't originally going to be yellow.

"I kind of wanted a yellow truck and Helen didn't think it'd look that good," he said. They were considering a couple different shades of green, but Don went with yellow without telling Helen until he got it home. "She thought it was OK," he said.

Since the body work was done to higher standards than he intended, why settle for the old, worn 283 V-8? Don bought a crate 350 and after tweaking it a little, installed it under the bright-yellow hood. And then he might as well make the interior nice, so he hand-crafted new door panels and headliner, and replaced the tattered bench seat with heated bucket seats out of a Chevy Tahoe, complete with leather and a 7-way power adjust. And the bed was treated to a new wooden floor, although he used a black ash wood instead of the yellow ash that it originally came with from the factory, which turned out nice. It also has vintage air conditioning and a CD/AM-FM stereo.

What was going to be a driver, once done, went to some car shows and started winning trophies. It wasn't going to be hauling firewood; it was now a show truck.

And that was fine with Don. The truck was more than just an old pickup anyway, since it had the larger rear window that isn't seen as often.

"I wanted the big window," Don said. "There aren't a lot of the big-window trucks around ... kind of made it a rare truck."

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