

He's Not Yellow About Changing His Hotrod

It's a 1923 Ford, but there is very little from 1923 on it. Most of it is from the latter part of that century. Craig Rice bought his 1923 Ford Model T bucket hotrod as a kit in 2000. But about the only thing that makes it a 1923 model car is the title that came with the kit. When he registered it after completing the build in 2003, it was registered as a 1923 automobile.

The body is fiberglass, with a few personal touches. He originally built it with a 454 c.i. engine, but the cooling system couldn't keep up with that monster, so he swapped it out in favor of a 350 c.i. engine that still makes it go plenty fast. With so little weight to push up to 65, it is quick, but he's never had it timed, nor raced it.

"It's not that kind of quick (to be racing), but it's quick from stop light to stop light," he said. It is also equipped with a Turbo 350 automatic transmission and a Ford 8-inch rear end.

When he originally completed it, it was yellow with a black interior. But he wasn't done tinkering with it. After the engine swap, last winter he repainted it in a PPG Prizmatic blue over silver metal flake and reupholstered it white. "It's a candy blue with flakes in it," he said.

He also put hinges and a latch on the rear trunk lid so it will open to reveal the now hidden gas filler neck, which previously came through the fixed, bolted down deck lid.

He likes it the way it is, but will he make any more changes to it? That's a question no man should have to answer about his hotrod.

