

Making More Mopar Memories

To say that Kent Reilly is a Mopar guy is an understatement akin to teenagers like video games. So it should be no surprise that his choice of vintage iron bears the Dodge Ram. And you shouldn't even bother asking if it has a hemi in it.



Kent and Terri bought their 1937 Dodge business coupe out of Chicago in 2003. But it didn't have a hemi then. A lot of the sheet metal was missing, too, victim of the tin worm. There was a lot of body work and fabricating to be done before Kent replaced the original motor. "The rust repair took about two years," Kent said.

Kent had a particular interest in the 1937 Dodge because he and his brother shared a 1937 Dodge sedan when they were in high school. His brother hung onto that car, and since it was sitting unused in a garage, Kent tried to buy it, but his brother, having similar nostalgic

attachments, would not let it go. So Kent went looking until he found this coupe.

In rebuilding it, Kent sought to keep the original look. He did install after-market running boards and shortened the rear bumper 8-10 inches to pull it closer to the body. The front bumper was jettisoned in favor of nerf bars. But the lower stance hints that something more is going on in this '37 Dodge. A closer look will reveal a Ford Mustang II front end and a Ford nine-inch rear with posi-traction. Then, of course, there's the hemi – a 392-cubic-inch mill out of a 1958 Chrysler bored .30 with a mild cam and two four-barrel carbs on a tunnel ram.

The colors on it are also remarkable. He took it to Don and Mike Jones to have it painted brandy wine with black basecoat, but Don suggested doing a two-tone because stone chips in that color would stand out. Kent went with Chrysler's Cool Vanilla for the bottom color and was very pleased with the end result.

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