

How a Farm Car Was Reborn

Once an old farm car to help with chores over Iowa's rolling hills, Randy DeBoer's 1939 Ford Deluxe Tudor Sedan now looks like a streetrod from his high school days.

Randy bought the car at a farm sale in Iowa in 1985. It had apparently been used on the farm, he said, and still wore the scars of having been driven through a fence and hammered back into shape, or at least a general likeness of its original shape.

"It was in driving condition," Randy said. "The body had a few dents in it, but it was a rust-free car."

After purchasing the car, he parked it in his mother's garage with good intentions of fixing it up. About 12 years later, he decided it had languished long enough, so he upgraded the brakes to 1955 Chevy drum brakes (to keep it away from those fences) and started driving it during the summers.

Then in 2008 he decided to turn the car over to Don and Mike Jones for a body-off rebuild. The frame was powder-coated, all the minor dents removed, and a Chevrolet 350 c.i. V-8 with a 350 automatic transmission were installed. The front axle was dropped and a 1995 Ford Ranger rear-end with 3:08 gears bolted into place.

Randy said he had been purchasing new chassis parts for several years because his daughter was working at a university near Chassis Engineering at Iowa City, so he'd stop and pick up a part or two every time he went to visit her.

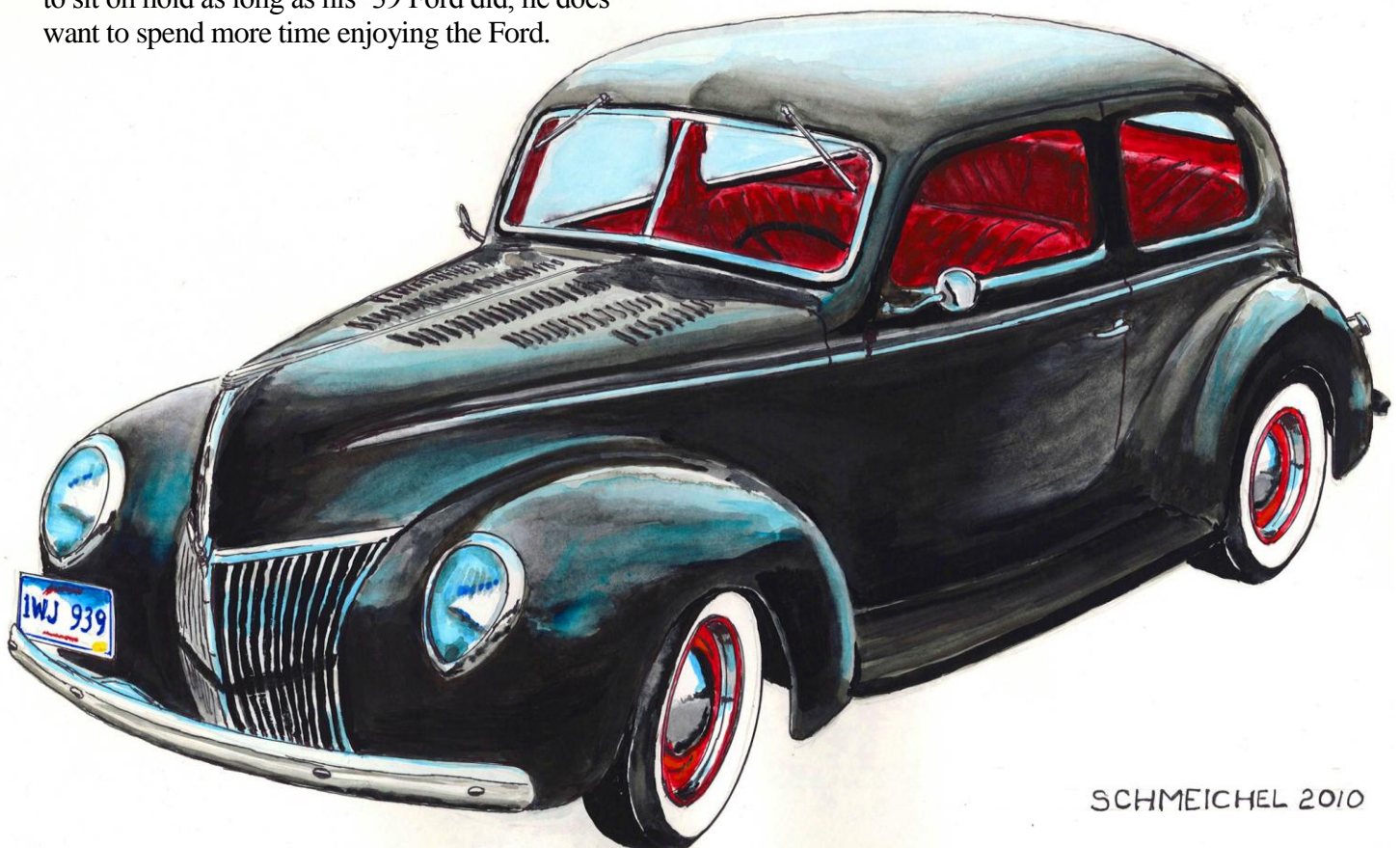
"I decided to paint it black and kind of go old school on it," Randy said.

That old school look was important, because Randy had a 1940 Ford coupe in high school. It was also black with red wheels, and it also had the dropped front axle.

"It's kind of what I remember in high school," he said of his '39 Ford.

"I really like it a lot. I hope to put more miles on it."

Randy also has a 1941 Plymouth business coupe for his next project, and while he doesn't want that project to sit on hold as long as his '39 Ford did, he does want to spend more time enjoying the Ford.



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