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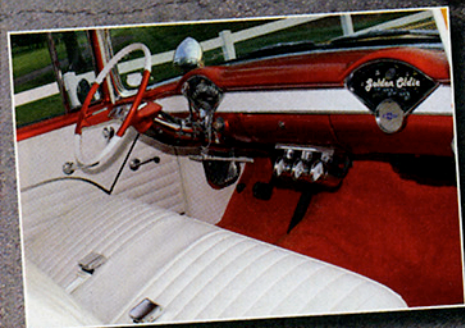


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NOT YOUR OLD MAN'S CAR MAGAZINE

GOLDEN OLDIE

1955 CHEVY



By Dan Podobinski

THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE WITH OUR CARS ARE VERY MUCH LIKE THE ONES THAT WE KEEP WITH OTHER PEOPLE. SOME FIND THAT PERFECT FIT AND CHOOSE TO REMAIN CONTENT WHILE OTHERS JUMP FROM CAR TO CAR, OR PERSON TO PERSON, VOWING NEVER TO BE TIED DOWN.

Dick and Sue Freund took the long term route. The Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, couple has owned this '55 Bel Air since 1980. While the relationship has been long term, the appearance of the car has changed multiple times over the 30 plus years that they've owned it. They initially built it as a street machine sporting 2-tone blue paint, a small block and a 4-speed. In the mid-1990s, the car was given the mild custom treatment, including deep blue paint and silver scallops, among other modifications. The car drew a good bit of attention and remained in that form until 2012.

What you see now is the third and perhaps the most striking version of the Freunds' '55 yet. The decision was made to pay homage to the classic mild customs of late '50s/early '60s Southern California, with a particular nod to the legendary Larry Watson. Those cars often featured minimal body modifications, allowing the intricate paint jobs to do most of the talking. Just

as he had done on the previous version of the car, the Freunds' son Mike handled most of the work this time around. Mike also had the help of his son Nick, making for three generations of involvement in the build. Mike happens to own Classics Plus Ltd., a restoration shop in Fond du Lac, so he and Nick are well equipped to handle this type of build.

Once the style for the latest rebuild had been agreed upon, the car was completely disassembled and readied for what would become the eye searing paint scheme it wears now. Many custom touches from the

previous version were retained, such as the '57 Corvette grille teeth, louvered hood and the custom trim on the quarter panels. Mike and Nick expertly applied the amazing House of Kolor Solar Gold base color before draping the entire car in candy tangerine seaweed-style flames.

While many customs may be all show and no go, this one sports a nicely built 355 small block Chevy, fed by an Edelbrock intake topped with six Strombergs. The jewel is dressed in period accessories and rests in a highly detailed, bright white and pinstriped

engine bay. Power is transmitted to the stock '55 rear-end through a TH350 transmission.

Now all of this eye candy simply cannot ride at stock height. To that end, disc brake equipped 2" dropped spindles combine with 2" dropped springs to get the nose down while reversed eye springs and 3" blocks get the rear end down to an appropriate altitude. Chrome steelies from Wheel Vintiques wear big and little wide-whitewall radials.

Inside, United Auto Trim covered the stock seats in white vinyl featuring classic 2" pleats. Orange carpet, dash and window

moldings add some pop. A color matched '61 Impala steering wheel rides atop a chrome ididit column to handle directional inputs and an aftermarket air conditioning system keeps the Freunds cool under all that fire.

All in all, it would appear that the third time was the charm when it came to reinventing this '55 Bel Air. The entire Freund family has succeeded in taking their idea of the period perfect mild custom and transferring it from a mere vision to the stunning reality you see here. Can't wait to see what they do to it the next time around!

Deluxe

TECH SHEET

OWNERS:	Dick & Sue Freund	SUSPENSION:	F- 2" dropped spindles, 2" dropped springs; R- 3" reversed eye springs, 3" lowering blocks
LOCATION:	Fond du Lac, WI	BRAKES:	F- Mike McGaughy's discs; R- Stock drum
BUILDER:	Mike & Nick Freund (Classics Plus Ltd., N. Fond du Lac, WI)	WHEELS:	F- 15x5 Wheel Vintiques chrome; R- 15x7 Wheel Vintiques chrome
VEHICLE:	1955 Chevrolet Bel Air	TIRES:	F- 215/65-15 BFG/Coker WWW; R- 235/70-15 BFG/Coker WWW
BODY MODS:	Nosed, decked, shaved, 248 louvers in hood, Nomad rear bumper	SEATS:	Stock
GRILLE:	1957 Corvette	UPHOLSTERY:	White vinyl w/2" pleats
PAINT:	House of Kolor Solar Gold, candy tangerine	DASHBOARD:	Stock w/custom insert
PAINTERS:	Mike & Nick Freund	STEERING COLUMN:	ididit chrome tilt
ENGINE:	Chevy 355 small block	STEERING WHEEL:	1961 Chevy Impala
TRANNY:	Turbo 350	TAILLIGHTS:	Lee custom lenses
INTAKE:	Edelbrock 6x2 intake; Stromberg 94 carbs	CAR CLUB:	Fondy Vintage Auto Club; Goodguys
IGNITION:	Mallory		
EXHAUST:	Dual 2.5" stainless w/glass packs		
REAR END:	Stock (3.36 posi)		



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