
Subject: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Augustus](#) on Wed, 03 Apr 2019 06:31:47 GMT

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Where do you look for ideas and inspiration when it comes to DIYing audio/video gear? I think Hackaday's website is a great resource for inspiration and Instructables' website offers the easiest to follow advice. Of course, since both of those sites contain community content, some of the projects are hit-or-miss depending on the content creator. However, I find it's easy to filter out the duds based on the submission's popularity or just through reading the comments.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Madison](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2019 14:29:37 GMT

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Lifehacker is good for easy stuff. I found my first DIY project there which was making sound panels. I've found tons of useful, easy to manage projects on Makezine. The site also has some simple audio/visual projects for kids that we've tried with good results. I think most of the Hackaday projects are too difficult to recreate, but I love checking out that website just to see what's possible.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Sat, 14 Sep 2019 13:48:33 GMT

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I have no DIY experience, but it sounds like a fun hobby to get into. Where do you recommend looking for instructions and inspiration for new beginners?

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 14 Sep 2019 15:16:02 GMT

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I would never DIY if I could find what I was looking for commercially. It is always more efficient to do research and design for an optimized product, and then to create tooling to make the product in whatever quantities are expected. So companies making commercial products have a head-start.

There are two criteria that I've found push me towards DIY. One is price and the other is quality. Sometimes commercial offerings tend to favor the middle of the road, and so I can find no low-cost optimizations nor any high-quality optimizations.

Or sometimes, available market offerings are good in many aspects, but not the ones I'm looking for. Like for example, a high-end speaker that looks great as furniture but that doesn't measure well. Or one that measures well in one direction but not over a range of directions. Those are

qualitative requirements that maybe even the best high-end speakers don't provide. Or maybe I want one or two requirements to be satisfied, but at a good price. So like an inexpensive speaker that measures well but doesn't have an expensive wood finish to raise cost.

Those are the things that drive me into DIY. I have this experience in cars as well as audio. I have a couple classic cars, and when I first got into the hobby, I wanted a shop to build a high-performance engine, install a new transmission and differential, suspension parts and brakes. What I got from the shop was not reliable, so I ended up studying the specialized requirements of the parts I would need to satisfy my automotive performance requirements, and I built the engine myself. It took me several iterations, learning as I went, before I had an engine that would do what I wanted it to do.

I suppose I could have continued to look for shops that might do the work for me, and in some cases, I did that. I built relationships with various machine shops and restorers and paint/body shops. I job out work where I can. But some things just aren't really in the wheelhouse of any of these shops.

Even engine builders tend to specialize, and so while one guy can build a great quarter-mile engine and knows how to setup a car for the quarter mile, he will not necessarily have any experience in SCCA/IMSA because handling requirements are quite different. Likewise NASCAR is pretty much a longevity thing - Gotta run high-RPM for hours at a time, not just seconds. And handling requirements are different here too. So each has different optimizations. Street cars have some aspects that can benefit from NASCAR optimizations and some that would favor SCCA/IMSA optimizations. And of course, every street racer wants to be the quickest car too, so some quarter-mile optimizations are useful too.

Of course, there are commercial offerings that might satisfy my desires in a car. There are Porsches and Lamborghinis that would probably satisfy my performance requirements. But I wanted a classic American muscle car, and those manufacturers don't make 'em. So I could find a high-end car shop to buy one from. But some of the best ones are priced in the stratosphere. And even of those, some use crate motors that may or may not suffice for me.

So it's the same situation for me in cars as it is in audio. I DIY because I have specific needs that just really can't be satisfied commercially, either at all or at my price point.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2019 21:00:42 GMT

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I search the web for ideas.

Punch in exactly what your looking for and add the word "diy" or "kit" or both.

I agree with Wayne.

Sometimes you must diy to get things exactly how you want.

I built a kit replica of a 1965 Shelby cobra years ago. This kit was like a blank easel....just a great

starting point.

It was designed with a few things that I would not compromise on- exact 90" wheelbase (not stretched)- round tube ladder frame like the originals (although 4"D instead of 3"D and 1.20 wall thickness instead of .90) also a very accurate body laser measured from an original.

The accuracy of the body was not exactly important to me, since even the originals varied quite a bit being hand made panels.

There was no way I was able to afford an original, or even a continuation series Shelby. Even the high end kits or replicas are way out of my price range. So diy kit it was!

A 427 side oiler was unobtainium for me, not to mention pretty much UN drivable, so I went the cheap route with a mustang (1990) donor car, using the motor and trans, front control arms and brakes. Obviously purists cried foul- It must have a big block side oiler!, it must be carbureted!

What a blast that car was, cat on carpet handling and could scare the pants off of almost any passenger if they asked for it LOL.

It only weighed 2,300lbs after all..

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2019 21:31:11 GMT

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Dude, I love the AC Cobras. And many of the kit Cobras are awesome. Yours must've been an incredible ride.

I'm with you on the engine choices too. I know the original Cobras had either 289 or 427 powerplants. Both were fine engines. But I've always thought a 351 Cleveland or a 429 would be great choices for a Cobra kit car. And your computerized and injected 302 must've been great too: Handling like the 289 Cobra with the finesse of modern injection and computerization. I like it!

Kits are nice because you can DIY and customize to give things personalization but at the same time gain the benefits of the R&D from the designer.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2019 23:06:17 GMT

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"Handling like the 289 Cobra with the finesse of modern injection and computerization. I like it!"

Exactly!

Attached is a link to the kit I built, but there are many others, although most are already assembled, at the least as a rolling chassis....

<https://www.factoryfive.com/roadster/>

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 2019 14:21:30 GMT

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Very cool!

I like how they call their kits Mk4 too. 8)

MkI - Original with 260 or 289

MkII - Rack & Pinion + 289

MkIII - New chassis + 427

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [musicluvr](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2019 13:59:07 GMT

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Ah, I see Wayne. DIYing this stuff isn't really a hobby, but more of a means to an end. I was just looking for something to do in retirement and I'm not into crafts or anything like that. I usually work on and off because not keeping busy eventually gets to me, but if I earn too much that'll push me into a higher tax bracket and cause issues with retirement.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2019 14:37:26 GMT

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You're right that for me it's a means to an end. And I think that's true for most people: They DIY something because it's cheaper or faster or better for them to repair it or build it themselves than to have a service provider do it for them.

But there's the "fiddle factor" too. I think some people are driven by curiosity and/or boredom to do things they could have paid someone else to do. Just for the sheer "fiddle factor" of it.

I think I'm kind of in both camps. :)

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 02:49:11 GMT
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Hi, I love cars and have built up a few, I really loved my Hurst/AMC 1969 Javelin SST. Much modified 343, Borg Warner t-10, special intake and exhaust, in factory "Big Bad Orange". Nothing on it that didn't make it go or stop. The police always followed me around, but never got me. Ran the mid-high 12s. I do admit that some of the work was done by the performance section of the dealer as they ran it for a while. I just made it a bit better. Hearing the un-silenced carb sucking air was always a thrill. You could drop silver dollars through the bores. But that digresses. I only diy something I can't buy or I can do better at a reasonable cost. Thus all my amp designs. I wanted great sound, but didn't want to mortgage the house to get it. Diy is not for the easily discouraged though. Stuff often won't do what is wanted on the first try. But you can use it as a learning tool. Try something and see what happens. Regroup and modify if it is not as desired. And as a word of caution with respect to audio diy on the web.....don't put too much stock in something that is supposed to be the greatest thing on the earth and be equally wary of negative comments on projects. (I get a few of each and neither is usually on target). :?

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 13:37:17 GMT
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Dude, that's cool! I didn't know you were a car guy too! I'll bet your AMC was a nice ride. I love cars like that 'cause they aren't the "usual thing."

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 17:54:36 GMT
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Hi Wayne, I do a few things other than electronics. I had other vehicles (Camaro, Charger, Mustang, Triumphs) but this was the favorite. The picture is not the best, but does show the AMC in its street setup.

File Attachments

1) [MYcar1969.jpg](#), downloaded 559 times

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 22:44:41 GMT
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That's super groovy cool!

I have had lots of hotrods over the years. Back in the 1970s and early 1980s, I ran hotrod Wankles. Mazda RX-2 cars with rotary engines and Holley carburetors. Street porting and headers. Those are damn fast. I went through a Porsche phase too, and had a 928. Was going to get a 944 Turbo but decided to go with an American muscle car instead. Different breed, to be sure, but I just wanted to go in that direction. I already had a 1983 Olds Cutlass that was in good shape as my (backup) second car but decided to make it my toy instead of the Porsche and get another second car. So I built a big block Olds with aluminum heads and a roller cam, and put a Ford Nine-Inch rear end under the back. That's been my daily driver since 1993.

1983 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme

File Attachments

1) [Parham_Cutlass.jpg](#), downloaded 497 times

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2019 23:40:28 GMT

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More "car guys " on here than I realized!

Bruce- that's a nice AMC!, I remember those well.

Wayne- that's a nice "Cutlass"!

Awesome that its your DD! Looks like you (should) have some hardware under that coat lol.

An old friend of mine had a cutlass like that built up with a big block.

He claimed 1/4m in the high 10's lol.

He didn't have the 9" though, and I recall he went through some rears!

On a sad note (DIY can be dangerous!), the poor fella died a couple years back of electrocution, pruning some tree limbs back near power lines with those aluminum chain saw extension poles (7000V).

~RIP Sean Loprinzi~.

I owned a couple of the old early Bronco's (a 69' and a 76') which also had the venerable "ford 9" rear".

Could beat them to hell off road, and know the rear axle wouldn't give even with oversize tires lol.

That third bearing in front of the pinion does the trick! Even the 1-2-ton Dana's (Dana 60-70-80) don't have them!

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [Madison](#) on Thu, 26 Sep 2019 00:31:35 GMT
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I grew up with dad carting me around in a similar Cutlass. I don't think he liked it very much though.

Johnny, I'm sorry to hear that about your friend. I'll remember that cautionary tale the next time I'm tempted to take a shortcut instead of taking the appropriate safety measures.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Thu, 26 Sep 2019 02:14:29 GMT
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Hi Everyone, The AMC was my daily driver as well...unfortunately my first wife got it as part of the split. A costly deal, but in the end worth it. It ran quite well for a mid block AMC with 3050 pounds to push around. Gearing was not the best and was on my change list before it went away. A 2.21 first into a 3.15 rear does not move off the line well, but after about 30MPH all #\$\$@!% breaks loose. Folks with plain jane machines would take me to 30, but then it would be all over. Next stop is 120. 1st was good to 65 mph. Lots of fun....

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [Patrick69](#) on Fri, 04 Oct 2019 01:05:58 GMT
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What an interesting topic. I'm pretty new to DIY but I would love to learn more. My wife is a huge Pinterest fan and she has been showing me things. I really don't know where else to look.

Subject: Re: Where do you look for ideas?
Posted by [Concorde](#) on Thu, 14 Nov 2019 17:37:08 GMT
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Seeing how the radio and corresponding electrical system in my car no longer works, and this has turned into a car enthusiasm topic, I'll just say this: I'll get the testing tools I need, troubleshoot the problem and DIY this issue myself.

I might do before and after pics as well.