



Monthly Newsletter April '08

Newsletter No. 0004

What's in This Month

Topic: What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 4)

Tip: How to get your car ready for Spring

Spotlight: Spotlight of the Month April 1978 Trans Am

Spotlight: American Cushion Industries

Classifieds



What to look for when buying a Trans Am (Part 4)

Ok, so now we have covered most of the process about deciding what Trans Am you want to purchase, places to purchase, crunching some numbers, and double checking what you are looking at when buying. Now comes the last portion of this... and that is Price. Now, there really is no good price guide out there for determining the value of the Trans Am you are looking at purchasing. There are places like the NADA Blue Book values of cars, but that does not take into account all of the variables possibly of the car you are looking at. There are again a few things that you can do to help find out if the seller is asking too much for the car, or if you are getting a great deal. It would really be taking a combination of various sources and looking at them as a whole. Last month we talked about asking friends (forums) to help look at the car for you. Well, you can do the same thing about the price of the car. Post on a few different forums and ask

the members if what you are looking at purchasing is a good deal or not. They will be more than happy to give you an informed opinion on the asking price of the car. Take a look at some other websites that have cars for sale like Ebay and some of the other links listed in the previous newsletter. Again, look for comparable cars to what you are looking at and see if the price is in line with others that you see. Then, take a look at it all together and see what else you see for sale and the price, what members on the forum came back with regarding the price and then the more important question would be "What is the car worth to me?" I mean, if you are looking at buying a car you had back in high school and the car has sentimental value, then you might be willing to pay more for it than other comparable cars out there. So, take all of these into consideration to assist you in hopefully making a deal for the car that you and your pocketbook will feel comfortable with making.

Coming Next Month:

Trends of Trans Ams in the Marketplace.

How to get your car ready for Spring

Well, for those of you who live in a part of the world that you can drive your Trans Am year round, you can skip past this section. But, for those of you who live in a climate where your car has to be stored for a period of time, then I hope this will help you get your car ready to hit the road again. There are a few things that you should do to make sure your car is ready. Really what you want to do is go over every part of your car safety wise to check everything for the upcoming season. Now, depending on what you did to your car to put it away for the Winter, you should follow some of these guidelines.

Fluids

You need to check and/or change the fluids in the car. If you changed your oil before you put the car away, then all you need to do is check it to make sure you didn't lose any. If you did not change your oil, then now would be a good time to do so. It doesn't hurt to change your oil once a year. Oil changes are recommended for every

3,000 miles or every year, whichever comes first. You also need to check all the other fluids. Make sure your coolant level is at the proper level, check the transmission fluid and brake fluid as well. Refer to your Service Manual for the proper levels.

Accessories

You also want to check all of your accessories to make sure everything is functioning like all of your headlights, turn signals, brake lights and any other bulbs and lights to make sure they are functioning. You also want to check your windshield wipers and blades and replace them if necessary. Check your power accessories and any other power items you might have.

Nuts and Bolts

You also want to go over and check all of your nuts and bolts on the car. Make sure your lugnuts are all on and tightened. Also check your tires for proper air pressure and tread depth as well. Check all of the bolts that hold together your suspension and steering. Now that you have everything checked, you are ready to cruise.



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Spotlight of the Month - 1978 Trans Am of Brian Miller

I chose Brian Miller and his car again for many reasons. First, yes, it is a beautiful car. It is a 1978 Y88 Gold Special Edition with the Pontiac 400 and automatic transmission. To give you the short of the story, Brian for quite a while was on the hunt for a 1978 Y88 Special Edition Trans Am. He had purchased a few cars and even had a gold one before. Of course that car had a few issues with wear and tear and was really showing its' age. After a few years of trying to make it work, he decided to try and find something better to work with. He came across this beautiful 1978 Trans Am that was located only a few hours away. Now, even though the car was a True Y88 Special Edition, there were quite a few things not correct about it like the stripes, grilles, rims, decals, and a few other small things. This is where (and why) I picked Brian as the Spotlight of the month. Not only has Brian been helpful to the members here on the forum with information and also restoration tips, but Brian over the past few years has been working hard on his car to bring it up to full Y88 Gold Special Edition Status. He has replaced many of the things on the car that makes his car a Special Edition. He got the correct rims, re-did the stripes on his car (with a little help from Hammer and lomileta), replaced the grilles, decals, and quite a

few other things to bring that car back to what it was..... a 1978 Y88 Gold Special Edition Trans Am.



Check it out for yourself on my Forum.

Company Spotlight: American Cushion Industries



ACI, Inc. produces the best quality products of their type currently being produced anywhere and supply top quality molded seat cushions for the ever evolving auto restoration industry. Their reproduction seat cushions will make your finished seats look like Factory Originals. Using their exclusive cold cure process using the same original wire contour mat reinforcements assemblies made from the very last GM production machine left in existence now owned by ACI. Check out their top quality seat cushions for sale on www.78ta.com

Classifieds

2001 Ram Air WS6 6speed. Black on black, every option except CD changer, Factory hurst shifter, Eagle F1 tires. Runs and drives excellent! normal driver wear. No rips in interior. Bone stock. 84k miles. Asking \$15k OBO. Email jblb95@verizon.net



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1980 Trans Am - 1980 Special Edition Trans Am, Olds 350 Engine, Hardtop, great restoration project; \$1800 Contact Pete at 423 321 2408

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1975 Trans Am - 1975 Pontiac Trans Am, Upgraded Pontiac 400, automatic transmission; Red on Red; Great weekend cruiser and light show car; Will sell for \$15,999 Contact Rich at r.keller.jr@cox.net



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1975 - 1981 Technical Service Bulletins on CD - Now you can have all of the Technical Service Bulletins on CD. Many with over 800 pages of information and bulletins from Pontiac about the Firebird Trans Am. Great for information for any Trans Am. Only certain years available currently, but more to come. Visit store.78ta.com for more details.