

# Monthly Newsletter August '08

Newsletter No. 0008

## What's in This Month

*Topic: What is my Car Worth?*

*Tip: Can you tackle your own Restoration?*

*Spotlight: Spotlight of the Month August 1978 SE Trans Am*

*Spotlight: Trans Am Nationals 2008*

*Classifieds*



### What is my Car Worth?

Well, if I have been asked this question once, I have been asked it a hundred times. I get alot of people ask "What is my car worth?". This question gets asked on both sides of the fence. I get this question posed to me for people trying to sell their car and also for people looking to purchase a car. The simplest answer to that question is "What is the car worth to YOU?" The car is only worth what the next person is willing to pay for it.

If we take a typical car like a 1978 Martinque Blue Pontiac 400 automatic Trans Am with T-tops and Black Deluxe interior to use as an example. A car like that in Mint condition would be worth about \$20,000 to \$22,000 to me. But, I have always liked the 1978 and the Martinque Blue with the black interior. But to someone else, that same car they might not pay \$15,000 for it because they do not like the 1978 styling or not like the color blue. So, the same car with be worth different values for different

people.

Prices of these cars fluctuate year by year and also month by month. What a certain car sold for last month may not be what it can sell for this month. With all the different choices of years, colors, motors, transmissions, options, and so on, there are alot of different variables to consider when trying to determine the value of a Trans Am. One of the bigger considerations in determining the value of the car is the production number, or how many were made of that particular Trans Am. If we take a look at a 1977 Y82 SE with the Pontiac 400 automatic transmission and T-tops, there were 6, 030 made in 1977, but a 1977 Y82 SE with the W72 Pontiac 400 and the 4-Speed with no T-tops, there were only 384 of them made. The 1978 Y84 SE with the W72 Pontiac 400 and 4-Speed only 20 of them rolled off the line.

Production numbers aren't the only thing to consider..... condition, mileage, options, owner history, originality all come into play as well. The highest value cars would be the low owner, low miles,

all original, low production number Trans Ams. A One owner, 2,000 original miles, all original, mint condition 1973 Trans Am SD455 4-Speed with only 72 of them ever being made you can plan on paying well into the 6 digit price range.

A car with alot of owners, high mileage, restoration work needed, highly produced Trans Am like the 1979 Olds 403 automatic cars where there were over 48,000 of them produced will of course bring a much much lower number on the market. There is no exact science to determining the value and everyone will have their own opinions on the values of cars. The best advice I can give you is go out and do some research. The Internet is a wonder place for information and gets better every day. Browse the Internet and compare what you see out there with what you have or are looking at and ask some questions on some forums. By doing that, you should be able to get a good idea of what the car is worth.

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**Coming Next Month:**  
**How to Sell your Trans Am.**

### Can you tackle your own Restoration?

Well, this question can be as big or as small as you want it to encompass. I am not only talking about restoring the entire car, but I am also talking about all of the little things along the way like "Can I replace the rear leaf srpings myself?", or "Can I recover my own seats?" The answer is "Yes" you can do just about anything to your car. All it takes is a little time, a little patience, and alot of common sense. As long as you have those things, some tools, and a digital camera, you can do almost anything. I have quite a few restoration tips on my website with more coming soon that hopefully will give you a little confidence to tackle some projects yourself.

Most items and projects on the car really aren't all that bad to do in your own garage with tools you probably already have. Some projects require a special tool like hogring pliers to recover your seats, but those tools can be purchased relatively inexpensively. \*\*

**Continued Next Month**



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### Spotlight of the Month - 1978 Special Edition Trans Am of Gerrit VanDerkamp

Well, here we are in the month of August and everyone is getting ready and gearing up for the Trans Am Nationals at the end of this month. I think one member here has spent a lot of time (and years) gearing up for this year's show. I chose for the spotlight of August the 1978 Y88 Special Edition of Pointman. Gerrit already had a beautiful 1981 Blue Trans Am, but keeps on adding more cars to his collection. He added this new one a couple of years back and it has been on the Restoration road ever since.

The car is a 1978 Y88 Special Edition coupled with the Pontiac 400 and automatic transmission, T-tops, PW, PL, A/C, and all the goodies. He has spent at least the last year or two getting this car back together. Purchasing parts over time and collecting items until the car was complete. It has all new paint and decals, brand new interior and more. Gerrit has spent a lot of hard time himself getting the car back to its former glory. Hopefully he brings this car to the Nationals and we can take a look at this car first-hand. But as we all know, it is not just about the car. Gerrit is a great guy and for those of you who have had a chance to meet him, I know you will agree. Even though he has a bad addiction to

Muffins and Pepsi and takes them whenever he gets a chance. I have known him now for many years and is always a part of the Trans Am Community and shows. He is a great person to have around on the Forum and also a great person to sit around and have a beer with. His personality is second to none. So, Congratulations to Gerrit for being Spotlight of the Month for August. I hope we get to see this great work in person in a few short weeks.

Check it out for yourself on my Forum.



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### Company Spotlight: Trans Am Nationals

This will be the 24th Annual Trans Am Nationals coming up the 22nd of this month in Dayton, OH. For those of you that are returning, it seems like this show gets better and better every year and you meet more and more friends. For those of you who have never attended all I can say is... What are you waiting for? It looks to be another great year this year for Family and Friends with over 400 cars coming to the show. Check out the Forum for more information and a possible caravan to the show in your area.

## Classifieds

1979 Y89 10th Anniversary Trans Am - 1979 Trans Am Pontiac 400 4-Speed; excellent shape; comes with many extras. \$25,500 Email [hitman@78ta.com](mailto:hitman@78ta.com)



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1973 - 81 Firebird/Trans Am GM Restoration Floor Mats. Here is the replacement rubber floor mats from GM for 1973 to 1981 Firebird and Trans Am. These are GM Floor mats that now you can purchase it for \$109. I can get them in black, tan, red, grey, and light blue. Please visit my store for more information. <http://store.78ta.com>



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1973 - 81 Firebird/Trans Am Deluxe Chrome Seat Trim. Here is the replacement chrome trim for the deluxe seats back on 1973 to 1981 Firebird and Trans Am with the deluxe interior. Most places charge \$35, now you can purchase it for \$17. Please visit my store for more information. <http://store.78ta.com>



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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](http://store.78ta.com) for more details.