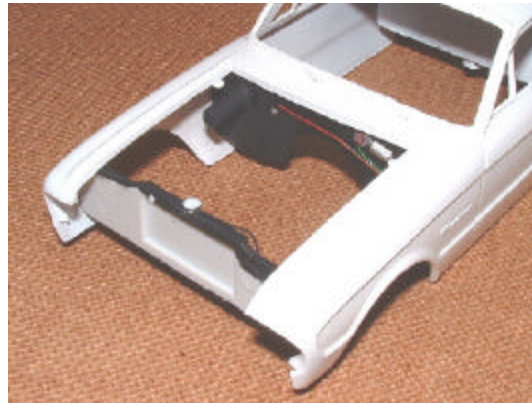


Building the Ranchero Part 6

By Warren Moffatt

It's been a while and we had some mis-communications but I think things are all set now. I've taken the firewall and removed the 2 injector pin marks, added a heater motor and repainted the cleaned up areas. I have the shock tower supports ready and then to use the supports you need one thing, (well...make that 2 things), Shock towers.

I took some sheet styrene scraps I had and cut them into 3 strips about 1/4" wide x 3/4" long. I cut one piece 1/4" x 1/4" for the top of the tower and then started to make a 3 sided box. I made two of these. After they had set up, I used some Squadron white putty inside for a bit of support. I had to let these set overnight and then started to round over the edges to give it the look of rounded over sheet metal. Next come the hard part; forming the shape to fit onto the fenders. I used my battery powered Dremel on low speed and a fine grit sanding drum to form the contour. I can be done with a Exacto knife and whittled by hand but be careful! The picture below shows the shock towers in white. You only have to be close as the glue will fill minor gaps that didn't show after paint. You might be able to see the heater motor behind the left tower. Another thing yo can see is that I outsmarted myself. When I added the radiator cap I learned why it wasn't included in the first place....the hood won't close! So I have filed it down as low as I can and close the hood.



Next, I'm getting close enough that I have started to polish the body in preparation of foiling the trim. In doing the polishing, I found there is a pit (?) for lack of a better word. It doesn't look like a fish eye but it could be but it appears to be in between layers of paint. I'll see if I can touch it up but it's not real bad so if I can, I will, but not to slow this article down.

I "washed" the grill with a 50/50 mix of thinner and black paint to bring out the grill detail. Letting it set for about 30 minutes, I wiped the grill with a soft cloth and the black wiped off all the high ridges and added depth to the grill.



I now have the firewall and radiator support glued in. The shock towers are in and painted. The interior is ready to drop in. The glass had a couple scratches but polished out well. The shock tower supports can't be installed until the body is glued on because they attach to the underside of the cowl at the center of the firewall. (So close and yet so far..lol)

By the time you read this it may be before Christmas or after as I'm not sure of the schedule. I just want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas!