Use your Browser "Back" Button to Go-Back Kaiser Bill's Auto Restoration "Before You Begin"

Restoring or upgrading an older car can be a very rewarding experience. Watching that battle-beaten old car being transferred into a thing of beauty and purring like a kitten will give you a sense of satisfaction that few other things can. If yours is a family



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project you'll also get the side benefit of seeing your family become closer as they work hard together to bring that old car back to its original glory. Everyone is impressed when they see a family at a car show proudly displaying their beautiful newly restored car all shiny and drawing an envious crowd.



When I started my first attempt at auto restoration I bought several restoration guides and books and read them thoroughly several times in an attempt to create a list of specific steps I could follow. I found that, although each of them contained some excellent suggestions and some detailed procedures for a specific make or part, not one contained a simple step-by-step sequence to follow. I really did not know where to begin or what to do first. I wrote down the few steps I could anticipate and started my work. I made several major mistakes

on my first attempt and wasted many man-hours and money finding out the hard way how to really proceed. I took that car apart and put it together at least five times before I realized that there really was only one sequence that would work.

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Auto Restoration - Before You Begin (Cont'd)

There are two restoration sequences that most novice restorers try on their first attempt. One is the method I call *"the tear apart method"* where the entire car is immediately stripped completely apart and each part is "restored" independently and then reassembled.

The second method I call the *"restore as you disassemble method"* where each part is restored as it is removed from the car and then set aside for reassembly after all parts are finished.

<u>Anyone that has successfully restored a car knows that neither of these "methods"</u> <u>really works</u>. Each will get you into trouble in a hurry, have you frustrated and, if finally successful, will lead to a very costly and time-wasting project. If you will just think about what work must be done and how each step relates to the other, common sense will tell you that these methods are totally unworkable.

Carefully consider your approach before beginning any work on your car. Plan out a systematic workable sequence that will get the job done in the least time and at the least expense.



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Auto Restoration - Before You Begin (Cont'd)

Almost anybody can properly restore their car if they will do the necessary research, pay attention to detail, and use good judgment along the way. The more you do the better you will become in doing the work and making good decisions. You will make errors, just learn from them. It is a rare person indeed that can personally perform <u>all</u> the detailed work required for a complete restoration. I don't intend to imply that you should be afraid to tackle most tasks - just think each new task through carefully before you start.

Realize your limitations from the beginning and you will enjoy your project more and have fun doing it. Each time you begin a new project you will be able to do more of the work yourself.

