

November 2015



Look at that car in the corner. I've had the picture for a while since I usually save things for use in future newsletters. I originally was going to describe how Bruce Larson's USA-1 branding was the inspiration for Everett Jasmer's USA-1 Monster Truck. Ironically enough, USA-1 wasn't originally a GM slogan though their use forever linked USA-1 to the Chevrolet brand. In fact, the USA-1 name itself wasn't trademarked until both men had been well into their careers and they are still the only current trademark holders of the specific name. Everett initiated his application process when he found out that the BIGFOOT name was in jeopardy because of a toy maker's lawsuit against Bob Chandler's business.

Back to the picture.... Bruce Larson's Chevelle came about like a car guy's dream. At the time, he was racing a 289 Cobra and worked as a dyno operator at Sutliff Chevrolet. The owner noted the irony and wanted to build a Corvette, but Bruce mentioned their high price and suggested that they get in on the "new" funny car craze. He suggested a Chevelle, and through some connections at GM, was able to get the body panels for a '66 before the cars hit the showrooms. He used those panels to get fiberglass units made through his crew member's employer who happened to be a boat manufacturer. They then made a box-steel frame for it.

Here's where it gets real dreamy: The engine was a 427 with Hillborn injection, and it put out about 1000 horsepower. It had a Muncie M22 "Rock Crusher" behind it, but even with a dual clutch it was just too much, and was swapped for a B&M Turbo 400. Bruce noted that he essentially was given the parts catalog and an open checkbook. Aluminum heads weren't available yet, but large valves and 12.5:1 pistons were. Crane modified the heads, made the roller cam, and the plugs burned Nitro with spark from a Vertex magneto.

The project took about 3 months, and also included pushing the front wheels forward 4" and the rears up 12". The front end was a combination of parts from all sorts of vehicles including 48 Ford spindles and a 63 Corvair steering gear. The rear was coil springs and air shocks with overbuilt control arms. The Dana rear end held 4.56 gears. Bruce's Chevelle was the first all-fiberglass car of its kind, and was first raced in December 1965. In 1966, it ran a best 9.50 at 150mph. In 1967, it was re-paneled as a 67 and ran an 8.78 at 160mph.

Bruce sold the car at the end of the 1967 season, when it was bought and raced as "The Patriot" by Jim Maybeck. It was soon sold, and eventually found in 1984 sitting next to a gas station in New York. Bruce bought it back from Al Pozzi who was found through an ad in a Raceway park publication. In 1996, Bruce donated it to the Don Garlits museum with the stipulation that it be restored. Most of the body was there but needed repair, the engine and rear were gone. Bruce donated his original Hillborn velocity stacks. It was all hand-built and Garlits wanted it for its historical significance. This was the first true Funny Car, and Garlits made sure that it is fully driveable if Larson ever wanted to make another run with it.

Tigger Welding: Turning Old Tools Into New Art

By Craftsman



When you're wrenching away through the night, just as you'll need to retire to the house for bed, you may also have to retire a well-used Craftsman tool. The Craftsman Brand offers a Lifetime Hand Tool Warranty, so rest assured that when you trade a ratchet in, it's not the end of its life, but rather the start of its next life.

To re-purpose all of your well-used tools, Craftsman joined forces with Tigger Welding, a popular scrap metal artist, to repurpose your old Craftsman ratchets into a pieces of art that are sure to scare each and every rounded socket back in line.

Tigger Welding is a prime example of someone who's #MADEtoMAKE, so take a look at what he made with the ratchets you retired. This may look like a bone yard of past projects, but to Tigger Welding, this is Christmas morning on horse steroids. →



You'd better believe that once the first stage of this project was complete, he gave these ratchet hands 1,000 high fives and then took them out to a steak dinner. The hands could only hold the steak though.

If you used this skull to recite lines in Hamlet, you'd probably end up singing Iron Maiden lyrics instead. Strangely, that was the skull's plan all along.



IT'S ALIVE! Tigger Welding has no problem making Frankenstein's creator seem like a 12 year old with a biology kit as he blasts this skeleton with its first taste of life.

Two months and around 200 ratchets later, you're looking at the face of passion behind this project. If you look really, really close you can see the physical blood, sweat and tears that spawned out of Tigger Welding's commitment to excellence.

It's not everyday that you get your hands on tons of old ratchets, or an amazing scrap metal artist who can build a stairway to heaven out of them. Over the course of our partnership with Tigger Welding, we've been blown away every step of the way. Give him a follow on Instagram at TiggerWelding and be sure to use #MADEtoMAKE on your own projects for a chance to be featured!



Product: EverZorb

Simoniz® EverZorb™ is the cleanest, greenest, and easiest to use absorbent available today.

Just 5 pounds of EverZorb is as effective as 60 pounds of traditional clay absorbents, without the dusty mess.



The revolutionary 2 bag collection system allows you to reuse EverZorb up to 8x, making it easy on your wallet and the environment.

Have a messy spill on your floor? Spread. Sweep. Store in the collection bag, and use it again and again. It is easy on the environment and your wallet.

EverZorb instantly encapsulates all automotive chemicals with no slippery residue. Use on oil, antifreeze, fuel, ATF, battery acid, and even paint spills. EverZorb is essential for your shop.

EverZorb also works great on household spills such as milk, wine, juice, food products, bodily fluids, and more. Keep a bag in the shop and a bag at your house.



Need that one size you don't have on hand? Here's a nifty solution →

Weirdest car facts from around the world:

By: Bobby Kimbrough (September 2014)

The world is full of zany facts. The most obvious turning out to be the funniest in most cases. We went on a search to find some of the silliest facts about our favorite subject, the car. Spanning the globe, we found some of the weirdest and most absurd facts about automobiles so that we could present them to you. Hopefully these bring a smile to your face or a belly laugh when you find out how much time you actually spend waiting for the light to turn green. Without further ado, here are the funniest car facts we could find:

1. **Ticket me red.** Red cars are prohibited in Shanghai, China.
2. **Airbags save most lives but...** Car airbags kill one person for every 22 lives they save.
3. **Hum a few bars and I'll fake it.** Most American car horns are in the note of "F"
4. **Do you know why I pulled you over?** The first speeding ticker was issued in 1902 when cars could only reach a max speed of 40mph.
5. **Does a Kea eat a Kia?** The Kea, a bird that is native to New Zealand, is notorious for eating the rubber strips around car windows.
6. **What took you so long?** In California, there are at least six drivers licenses that are registered under the name "Jesus Christ"
7. **Must have not tripped the sensor.** On average, drivers spend two weeks out of their whole lives waiting for traffic lights to change.
8. **One Billion.** Not evil enough-There are over 1 Billion cars currently in use on earth.
9. **Just one more and we'll have a record...** About 165,000 cars are produced every day.
10. **Mein Kampf Subtitle: My Struggle-getting a car loan.** While in prison writing Mein Kampf, Hitler also wrote to a Mercedes dealership begging for a car loan.
11. **Only two of them are spares.** The average car has 30,000 total parts.
12. **Only 45% of the owners are still young enough to drive.** 75% of cars that Rolls Royce has ever produced are still on the road today.
13. **Hitler should have written to Volkswagen.** Volkswagen owns Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Audi, Ducati, and Porsche,
14. **Should have down loaded those podcasts.** The average American spends 38 hours a year stuck in traffic.
15. **Those are house odds!** The odds of dying in a car accident are around 1 in 5,000.
16. **Wait for it... wait for it...** Car wrecks are the number one cause of death for Americans under 35.
17. **Where in Bizzaro world is Turkmenistan?** In Turkmenistan, car drivers are entitled to 31 gallons of free gasoline a month.
18. **I demand a recount.** There are more cars than people in Los Angeles.
19. **Won't you rob your neighbor?** According to a feature in TV guide magazine, Mr. Rogers once had his car stolen. After the theft was reported in the news, the thieves returned the vehicle with a message: "Sorry, we didn't know it was yours."
20. **You get an almost free car... and you get an almost free car... everybody gets an almost free car!** The 276 people that received free Pontiac G6 cars on the Oprah Winfrey show in 2004 all had to pay a tax bill of around \$6,000 for the free car.
21. **No Two-Fers.** If you and your spouse each received a car on Oprah, you owed Uncle Sam \$12,000!
22. **Coupes rule the road.** For the past 35 years, the best selling car in America each year has been the Cozy Coupe. In 2008 alone, a year before the car's 30th anniversary, 457,000 Cozy Coupes were sold.
23. **And you thought Detroit was bad.** The world's capital for the crime of carjacking is South Africa, where the rate of carjacking is about 18 times that of the U.S.
24. **Best car option ever!** South African BMWs can be equipped with optional flame throwers to prevent carjackings.
25. **Are you sure that's mud?** A "Dashboard" was originally a piece of wood attached to the front of a horse drawn carriage that prevented "mud" from splattering the driver as the horse galloped.