



## Club Officers:

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## The hot rodding industry is changing

Over the past 60 or so years, we have seen the rise of muscle cars, bigger and bigger cubic inches, fuel injection, and a complete redesign of the GM engine combining all of it, which became the LS family. Wether we like it or not, the next stage is on the horizon: Electric propulsion.

How can I be sure: Project X. The famed '57 Chevy that, since 1965, has been featured for so many years by the automotive media has made the change. While the majority of the chassis was kept the same, it is now home to a 400 volt DC power plant that is rated at 340hp and 325 lbs-ft of torque. In EV terms, all that torque is immediate, not on a curve.

At the drag strip, the 4000 pound hot rod ran 8.65 in the 1/8 and a calculated 13.45 with a 1.54 second 60 foot. While barely completed for SEMA, and then drag testing before PRI, not much time was spent putting power to the pavement. Expect 12s soon.

If the pieces were cheap, available, and understandable, I could see it take on, but not soon. It IS coming though.

## Tool Box Organizers

There are a lot of different ways to organize your toolbox, ranging from none (aka the dump method) to something along the lines of what you would expect NASA or a severely OCD person may devise. I have tried several ways or systems, including the cheap tin socket rails to the pegboard screwdriver rings to the wrench racks to the Craftsman socket trays that fit into a drawer. Each has it's benefits, depending on your own situation but they all have their downsides too.

All those socket stands, wrench racks, or pre-cut holders are great IF your drawer dimensions match (which mine never did), or IF you have ALL the sizes that the pre-printed holders specify. Now, if you buy a complete set, they often come in a nice tray, but once that tray leaves the package, it loses its shape easily. (except for the high end sets like Snap-On, Matco, etc). It might not be so bad if we didn't seem to need (want?) 2 driver sizes, 2 depths, swivels, and m a y b e specialty ones like star, torx, and allen. Oh yeah, you might n e e d i m p a c t versions too.



Sometimes you need to m o d i f y what's out there: I found some nice peg style racks for my sockets at Northern years ago, and ended up taking them to the bandsaw to accommodate how many spaces I actually needed. Those socket rails had handles, but they were too long, so those get cut off too. The wrench racks always seem to move, so maybe you double stick tape them down. In all, you're stuck with a whole bunch of tools, probably all in different drawers, and you're probably still dumping the extras in the open space.



## What's going on???

I love reading about the different projects people are doing to their cars, shops, and whatever else they have going on, and I know you do too. Especially during the past however many months and various levels of isolation, I'm sure a lot has been going on at your place. Let's see what's going on. Post up some pics, give us a little detail. Let's fill our forum pages with activity.

While I did get some minor things done on the car over the past year, I have spent a lot of time traveling with my wife. As newly empty-nesters, we were (are?) having a hard time trying to fill all those hours that were consumed by 2 kids. Now that I have the time, I want to get back to a lot of the more social things that I have missed out on over the past few years.

## Upcoming dates:

### GSTA Rod & Custom Show

April 2nd & 3rd

### Back to the '50s:

June 17th-19th

### Street Machine Nationals:

July 15th-17th

I met a very nice guy named Jon a couple months ago and he has created a company called ToolBoxWidget. He came up with a system that tries to solve each of the problems we all seem to run into. His systems use individual holders which will be interchangeable and connect to other systems to help save space. Wrench and socket holders have spaces for optional size tags to be popped on. Each tool type holder is



identical, and kits come with spacers for between larger sockets, screwdriver handles, etc. Socket holders are 1/4, 3/8, or 1/2" and use the ratchet hole. Optional pegs are available for sizing and stick just out of deep sockets. Screwdriver holders also hold socket wrenches, extensions and similar shaped tools. All with magnetic bottoms to keep in place.



Priced at \$25 for 12-15 tools per kit, you can buy as many pieces as you need, and it's not too far from the other things out there and gives a very nice professional look to your toolbox.

## Project: Scrap Metal Cart

I don't know about anyone else, but there's just times where I need to go out to the garage and create or do something. There's usually a list of Chevelle stuff I can do, but sometimes I just need a mindless project to accomplish. A couple weekends ago, I had one of those days and a bunch of spare time, so I got busy.

## Materials Used:

- 1x8 scraps that came with the house back in 2010
- A huge 2x11 from parts unknown
- Scrap garage storage shelf supports
- Cheap utility cart from my kid's dorm that she was tossing out

# I NEED MY GARAGE TIME

## Seen at SEMA



Off to the side in one of the display rooms I saw this Chevelle. While it has several cool custom treatments including this wild grille mod, it sat nearly unnoticed. As I looked closer, it was obvious the car wasn't finished. In fact, it was hastily assembled and like several display cars there, I wonder if it even runs. Hopefully we will see more of it in the future.



Over the past several years, I have accumulated a bunch of cut-off scrap metal pieces, and I typically will save various metal things before I toss out the garbage. I have made things in the past from these, some of which will make it into future newsletters. Most of my scrap has been kept in a drawer of my small workbench and part of the cabinet space below it. The drawer has gotten so full that it was too heavy to pull out without fear of breaking. I needed a solution for all these things I have kept in case I found a need for them. My wife and kids were all gone for a few days, so I turned up the tunes and built a cart. My goal was to not spend a dime, and I came close.



Here's the drawer. I've always been a bit of a hoarder, but it was time to actually make it more organized. I wanted something that separated the flat remnants from brackets and chunks.

I had a basic idea in my head: Some type of library cart, trays on top and open space for sheet scraps below. Tall sticks would sit vertically. After that, I would just wing it based on material size and see what happened.



Rule #1 of hoarding: you gotta use it sometime, right? I had a hard time not wanting to cut up perfectly good pieces in case I need them later. Well, now is later. I'm going to give my college kid \$20 for the grey cart I pirated the baskets from, but other than that, even the heavy duty casters came from my stash. I might even paint the metal someday.

