

Fox Tales

Fox Valley Region

Model A Restorers Club

May, 2007

American Tourister ... by Keith!

Too much stuff and way too little room. It's an old story that has plagued Model A Ford drivers for three-quarters of a century. Roadsters and Coupes take compactness to the extreme. They are so small that the new car purchaser had to choose – extra passengers or a suitcase?

Keith and Judy's black '30 does not have the kid carrier option, but Henry's trunk does not have room for tools and all Keith's emergency car parts. Making problems worse, Judy has filled in the nooks and crannies with parade decorations and theme party stuff. You couldn't squeeze in another Kelley Green bowler ... or even a hip flask.

Keith had done a little research on Model A luggage rack-mounted trunks, but had not found to his liking. Then

Dick Molson showed up with a beautiful vintage-style touring trunk on his Blind Back Fordor. Keith asked to borrow the plans.

On the first warm day in March, Keith gathered left-over plywood and headed for the garage. First, he built his bending jig to create the curved front for the trunk. After soaking the wood he clamped it in the jig to bend and left it to dry. Meanwhile the base and sides of the box were fitted together. Things were looking good! Then Keith assembled and hinged the top.

Progress screamed to a halt when the effects of G.W. blasted Winfield with a second helping of winter. The Rogers' basement and kitchen were too cold for Keith's California blood. This gave him the opportunity to order leather from Isaac's Upholstery in St. Charles and the latches, studs, and buckles from LeBaron Bonney.

By tax day, Keith was busy gluing the material to the wood. (Judy tried not to sniff, but was still a bit "loopy." Can you imagine?). The faux rivet studs and belting were attached with t-nuts, and the interior lined. Voila!

On April 16 the little Coupe was fitted with its new auxiliary trunk. How about a road trip?



Key to ascetics as well as to aerodynamics is the genteel radius on the rear edge of the lid. Here is Keith's exquisite panel bending jig.



The "box" becomes the "trunk." Even with temperatures plunging, Keith's project signals summer. Picnic time!



Woodworking almost done, Keith is ready to put on his upholsterer's cap. Judy offered lots of encouragement to finish the project!

Count Your Model A Blessings!

For old car guys, there's always a bright side to having to get your hands greasy. Phred Hollister reports that his Fordor, also known as "Hansel," quit running, made a couple of "clunks", and would not restart. Fortunately for Phred, the breakdown occurred 50 yards *uphill* from his Elgin glass shop. Phred's new car lift happens to be on the Aurora end of his daily commute in a bay at the shop.

Darn!

Anyone who has had a similar malfunction and has not had to ask for a push – especially a push from his wife – knows that Phred's was a fortunate breakdown ... roughly equivalent to a winning Lotto ticket!

When last contacted, Phred was apparently enjoying the prospects of a timing gear transplant. He intended to drop the oil pan to see what else might be *going right* in there. Toys and their boys!



Hansel's timing gear was the culprit. JB Weld could not restore this one!