



# A BIRD IN THE HAND

SENTIMENTAL VALUE SPARED THIS '72 FIREBIRD FORMULA FROM REPLACEMENT.

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Jeff Lilly Restorations labored long and hard to perfect the fit of the Firebird's Endura nose and Formula hood before drenching every inch of the body in mirror-like black base coats with smooth-as-glass clear coats, all polished to perfection.

## EVERYONE'S GOT A FAVORITE PAIR OF BLUE JEANS – YOU KNOW, THE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN WORN AND WASHED SO MANY TIMES THAT THEY'RE MORE COMFORTABLE THAN YOUR OWN SKIN.

But eventually, with additional wearings and washings, their color fades just a little too much, holes appear in the knees, pockets and worse places, and the edges begin to fray. When that happens, there's nothing that can be done

but convert them to "yardwork pants" and move on to a new – not yet broken in – pair and hope that one day they'll feel right, too.

For Mark Galvan, his '72 Firebird Formula 400 – which he's nicknamed

"Thrust" – was sorta like that. He bought the car nearly 25 years ago and just loved it. He drove it every chance he got. But over time, the paint began to fade, and upholstery became thread-bare, and the mechanicals started to break down.

**SCOOPS:** The fiberglass hood's twin scoops provided a true ramming effect at speed, thanks to their high, forward mounting position that got them above the boundary layer at the hood's surface. **WHEELS:** American Racing Torque Thrust wheels wear Nitto rubber and hide Wilwood calipers at all four

corners. Up front, the wheels attach to Global West Suspension tubular control arms, while out back, a 3.55:1-g geared Currie 9-inch rear funnels the power to the wheels. **HOOD:** Matching the rubber Endura nose, fiberglass hood and steel fenders is a daunting task, but Lilly and his master craftsman worked

until the gaps and fit were flawless. **ENGINE:** The Butler Performance 400-cube engine puts out an honest 525 horsepower on 93-octane pump gas, thanks to a 9.75:1 squeeze and expertly-ported heads and a careful selection of performance parts, including Hooker Super Competition headers.