



RETRO DRAGSTER

RESTORING A '64 AA/GAS DRAGSTER

By Warren Boughn • PHOTOGRAPHY: WARREN BOUGHN & TOM LAWSON

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DO YOU WANT TO GO NOSTALGIA DRAG racing but don't want to spend the money it takes to build an up-to-date Digger? Well, eighth-mile nostalgia drag racing exhibition-style in an original blast-from-the-past might be for you. Tom Lawson picked up this jewel at the NSRA Hot Rod Reunion in Bakersfield a year ago, and the journey began. Tom recognized the car and started to make phone calls to gather documentation for the restoration. The first one he made was to Steve San Paolo, who originally owned the car, followed by a call to Precision Street Rods & Machines for its fabricating and restoration skills.

With careful guidance from Steve, the car began its rebirth. Tom elected to build this in the form he thought was the best-looking of its time in history. It was a Top Fuel and Top Gas car and ran



a variety of engines from a small-block Chevy to an impressive blown 392 Chrysler Hemi. When we contacted Steve and told him about the new project, he offered all of his old parts for the car that he still had laying around, as well as an assortment of original photos.

If the owner's name sounds familiar, it's because this is a West Coast car that ran under the moniker "Spaghetti Bender" and was often seen in the Bay Area. The car ran in the '60s and '70s with an impressive 194 mph for bragging rights.

Although most of the car was there, it was missing a few important parts.



Precision had to find, make, or mount a variety of parts such as the clutch pedal and assembly, steering assembly, brakes, and parachute. The original aluminum body needed so much repair from being dented and whacked with tin snips, Precision decided to build a duplicate.

In the following photos, we'll show you how the San Paolo Brothers "Ol' Spaghetti Bender" AA/Gas Dragster was restored.

