

# A Popular rodent

From Craig 'Style' Counsell

Pinstriping, tattooing, building old rides and spending the working week surrounded by project cars occupies Zachary Kohl's waking moments. Throw into the mix Karate lessons and weight training, and you've got one busy 20-year-old. However, he did manage to piece together his own 'ratted' version of a Ford Pop, with some help from his own pop...



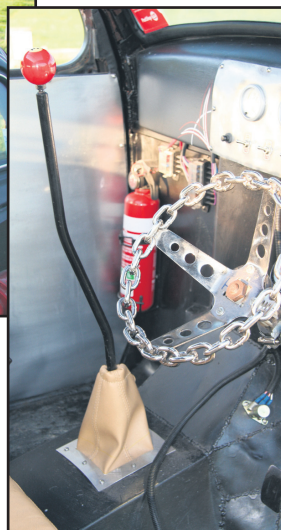
■ (Above) Like many projects, the Pop was found through 'word of mouth'.

■ (Left) The Mopar donk has been there over 20 years. It's fired into life by an electronic ignition, fed fuel from a 450 Holley and expels the fried pump gas through custom built headers and a single system exhaust.

■ (Left) Modified high back bucket seats from a Mini were cut down at Kohl Rod & Kustom and re-upholstered in marine vinyl dubbed 'Jag Beige'.

■ (Below left) The original soft top roof insert had long since taken leave. A custom 'clip on, clip off' insert was fabricated and allows some vintage AC into the Pop's interior.

■ (Below) A custom lengthened shift lever topped with a pool ball knob adds a touch of rat.



Sometimes when you turn off down a quiet country road you never know what the landscape will turn up. In this case, taking a right heading south through the small village of Ohau (south of Levin) nets you a peaceful rural lifestyle area that occasionally gets woken up by the sound of a revving engine and the odd chirp of rubber. Towards the end of the road lies the headquarters of Kohl Rod & Kustoms, a father and son hot rod shop where Zachary (or Zak as his dad calls him) put together his popular rodent.

A panel beater friend had the old Dagenham dandy sitting on his shop floor partially stripped and in need of some TLC. Zachary and 'Bomber' (dad, Danny Kohl) rescued the old Ford twelve months ago. Fast forward to mid September of this year and the now satin black Ford had its registration decal updated and a new WOF slapped on the screen. Although the Pop had sat in a stripped state for 20 years someone had the foresight to put the Pop's rego on hold and the original MOT declaration was preserved.

Under the louvered hood resides a 265 Hemi inline six, behind that's a MK4 Zephyr manual 'box, which leads to a MK3 Z-car rear end that rests on parallel leaf springs with Monroe shocks. The same brand shocks are fitted to the junkyard-supplied independent front end that has been in the Pop for over two decades. Disc brakes up front and drums on the rear are fed fluid from a Cortina master cylinder, and there's a remote mounted Hillman Hunter booster.

Inside the two door sedan, brushed aluminium panels suffice as door panels. The same alloy is used for the home-built dash

insert which houses aftermarket gauges to keep a close eye on the E49 cammed 265, which is kept cool via a Fordson tractor radiator. The junkyard column that leads to an early rack and pinion, holds a chrome chain wheel, and is fitted with a replica FoMoCo turn signal unit.

Seven-inch headlights are joined by '39 Ford teardrops. Zachary took care of the complete rewire with some good advice from Mike at L. Alexander & Co Auto sparkys in Wellington. No stereo is wired in; the lads reckon it might be a bit hard to hear it with the 265 in full song!

The satin black paint job on the two-inch chopped body is complimented with Zachary's own hand pinstriping in red and white. There's also his trademark striping on the dash. There was no glass in the Pop when purchased, so the duo made their own templates and had a local glass company cut new glass for all openings.

Under the six-inch widened guards are early Trident mags: 14 x 7 out back with 265/60 series tyres, and 14x6s up front with 195/60s. The wheel centres are M.I.A. but some bullet-style centres are on the cards.

The Pop made its maiden voyage after twenty years in a shed (and one more year being resurrected) to the Capital Rodders Guide Dog run in September. It boogied along admirably well and now the 'ratted' pop's out of shed and finished (well almost, and Zak and Bomber asked 'are they ever really finished?'), the attention at home is now on the family's '48 Bonus pick up-and a nostalgic T-bucket... two more popular rides!

