

Your Sneak Preview of
How to Build a
3 Window Coupe



For Under \$3000 !
in Your Home Garage
by Chester Greenhalgh

The Budget Hot Rod for the 21st Century

Chester Greenhalgh earned his hot rod “how-to” chops back in 1986 when he wrote the legendary “How to Build a T-Bucket Roadster for Under \$3000”. It was based on his decades of expertise building budget T-Bucket hot rods for himself and customers and was hailed as the most complete hot rod how-to ever written. It earned its status as legendary after Chester moved South of the border and out-of-print copies were selling for well over \$200 on eBay and Amazon.

Long story, short: we connected with Chester back in 2009 and are proud to introduce his 5th hot rod how-to eBook, [How to Build a 3 Window Coupe for Under \\$3000 in Your Home Garage.](#)

This new eBook shows how to build a nostalgic 1930s-40s looking 3 window coupe street rod using a cheap PT Cruiser donor car. The result is a distinctive nostalgic-look street rod with all the modern conveniences that you or your better half can effortlessly drive anywhere, rain or shine, with all the creature comforts and safety of a late model passenger car.

Why the PT Cruiser?

To start, they’re cheap! Chrysler built 1.4 million of them and they’ve been on the market over 15 years. I just searched my local [craigslist](#) and found over a dozen of them listed from \$800 to \$1500.

The PT Cruiser was designed to have a retro look, but didn’t quite hit the mark. Turning it into a coupe is how

Chester is able to get that nostalgic look on a really low budget.

What Chester Has to Say About it ...

I could give the PT Cruiser the early 30s coupe look and still keep all of Detroit's creature comforts. None of the safety features like air bags, seat belts, back up alarm and anti-lock disc brakes would be changed. You would still have your AC, stereo, defrosters, pollution controls, electric windows, rear wiper, washer and defroster, soft electric seats and you could continue driving it the entire time you're working on it.

There would be no problems with inspections, insurance or vehicle titling. The police would applaud us instead of hassling us and we'd get terrific gas mileage in an age when every penny counts or the option to drastically increase the horsepower with bolt-ons.

This just might be the hot rod of the future for middle income families. Something you wouldn't worry about your wife or 16-year-old hating to drive to school. So the idea of the PT Cruiser coupe was born.

The Deuce Coupe of the Future?

Perhaps this will become the 'Deuce coupe' (2002) of the future. I wanted to create a Hot Rod that anyone with or without mechanical expertise can build. I've always considered myself a good mechanic but I'm completely lost on today's cars. I don't think I'm alone in that. So the answer for the 21st Century is a Hot Rod that doesn't have to change anything mechanical, to make a car that looks bitchin' by just rearranging some metal. And if you are a horsepower freak you can install any kind of motor you want in it.

Another benefit of using a PT Cruiser is that you won't have the battle with rust that you normally have with building an antique into a hot rod. The high tensile steel used in a PT is not only new but is much stronger and more rust resistant than what they had back in the 30s, although it's much thinner. But with today's MIG-welders the thinner metal is not really a problem, plus it's much lighter. I've been working with rusted-out antique bodies for over 50 years so this project should be a relief.

Since they only went out of production a few years ago they should be available in various conditions for many years to come and provide a basis for a build for a person that isn't a seasoned mechanic because none of the mechanical aspects need be changed or modified.

Time is on Your Side

Face it! A non-existent 30s metal body or its replica is only a project for a good mechanic with loads of money to build, so let's let the rich snobs pursue that area with their hired mechanics.

We're very fortunate in the wide, cheap availability of the PT Cruisers. You don't have to look behind a barn or in a patch of woods to find one like we did with the old coupes. It seems that there are PTs everywhere (the wrecking yards have plenty of them simply because there were so many of them built); providing a hot rod base and supply source for the middle income people for many years into the future.

Since you don't have to reinvent or makeshift any of the mechanicals there is no reason why the young people in this century need miss out on the enjoyment of building a hot rod with their own two hands, on a beer budget,

and the pride they'll experience driving it around every day.

They can follow repair instructions from others on the internet free and buy the parts for their PTs anywhere; either new over-the-counter or used in a junkyard.

Cheap Hop Up

The great thing about using the PT for a hot rod is the availability of junkyard parts from PTs, Neons, Stratus and other Chrysler products that will interchange with your project. You can even find a complete turbocharger on a junkyard PT for a fraction of what you'd pay for it on the aftermarket. And it's made to fit your PT! The later GT version had a 230 HP 4 cylinder that will bolt in any PT. Because of the popularity of the PT there is a huge market of custom parts available on the internet when you have a little extra money. There is even a computer performance chip to give you an increase in horsepower.

No Interior Worries or Extra Cost

One of the things that attracted me to the PT was the interior. That nice of an interior in an early 30s hot rod was something only Boyd Coddington was capable of designing. It is snug, beautiful and comfortable, everything is within easy reach, and the stereo system (before the 'efficiency experts' messed with it after 2006) is perfect. That is something I definitely don't want to change. It not only has a tremendous appeal to women but to the young and old as well. It would be a good project for an experienced hot rod builder to build for his wife or one of the kids.

Please the Better Half

If your wife has been against the tedious and expensive project of building a normal hot rod, take her to a car lot and let her test drive a PT Cruiser, then show her this book and tell her that none of the cockpit comfort or easy driving will be changed.

This PT project will produce a nice, clean, attention getting car you can trust to let your wife or kids drive anywhere and you just might be one of the pioneers forming the ground floor of what's to come for tomorrows hot rodders (your kids) and home mechanics.

Build Your Skills

Yes, some metalwork is involved in building the 3 Window Coupe, but Chester does it using a \$100 Harbor Freight MIG welder and it's a perfect opportunity to build your skills while doing the work because Chester shows you how in great detail.

And like all of Chester's builds it only uses the most basic tools and low cost materials. He's even included a Bill of Materials to show that the outlay on his personal 3 Window Coupe PT Cruiser was well under the \$3000 budget.

Get Yours Now!

This is a 72- hour half-price sale and you will discover and learn how to get started cheaply and easily for only \$9.99 as long as you order before the sale ends on Monday, April 30, 2018. Order NOW at <https://www.hotrodplans.com/product/21st-century-hot-rod-build-3-window-coupe/>