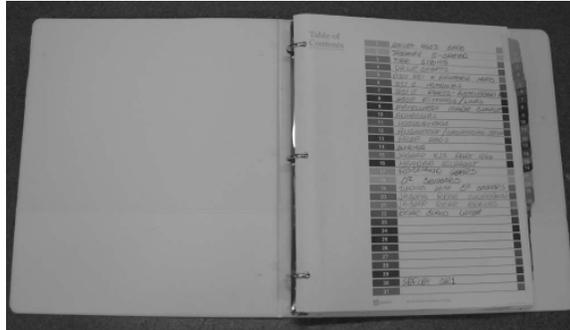


May 30, 2005

From the Bench

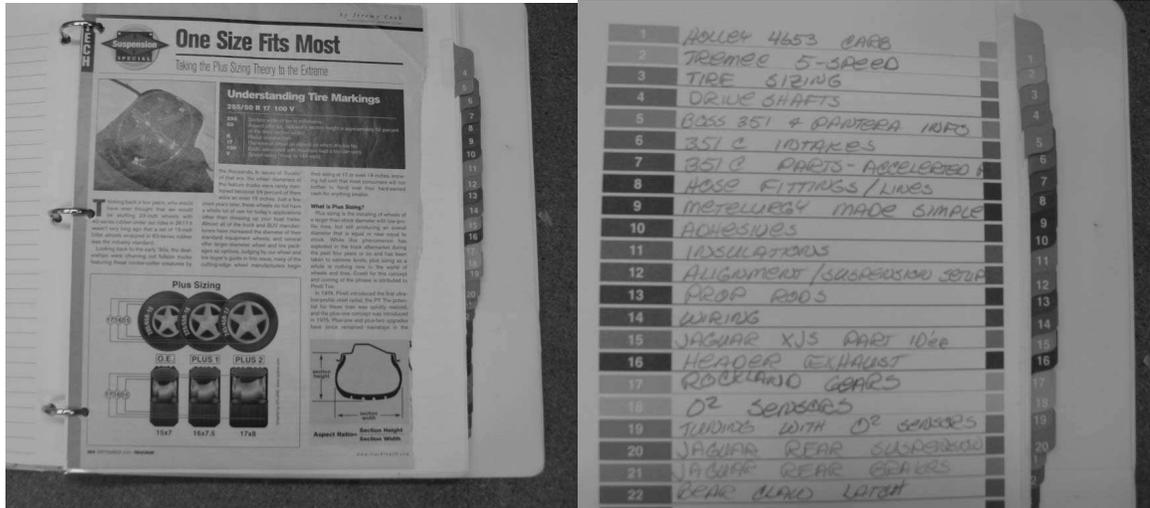
Ever loose an idea? I have and I prefer to think it's because I have so many running around as opposed to the fact I'm over 40 years of age. This month I'm going to let you in on a secret that's helped me on many projects, not just cars, in keeping it organized.

Yeah, it would be nice if there was a master index of every single car magazine, web source, paper napkin that ever contained some useful piece of trivia but there just isn't - but you can keep it together the old fashioned way. Use a simple 3-ring binder with a numeric index page and start saving.

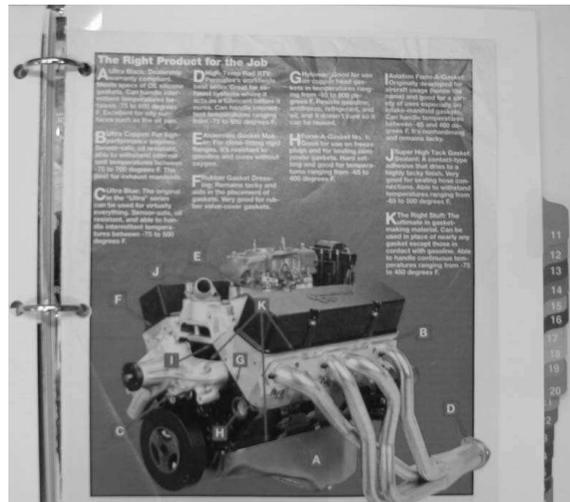


What? And mess up my great magazines by tearing pages out? Wouldn't think of it. But how many magazines do you really save? I get about 6 different car magazines and I only save intact the two that deal with kit cars. The others I get for the express purpose of gleaning ideas from. If I can find one idea per magazine and save it, I've spent the money for that magazine well. I also happen upon ideas on the web and print them out, or on manufacturer flyers, from paper napkins with a lot of doodling on them, pictures of other cars, etc.

Ok, so you're sitting there Tuesday night looking through your recent arrival of hot rod magazines and you see an article on plus tire sizing. Now you don't need it right now but you know that some time in the future when you trade up those stock 15" rims for 20"s you'll be at the mercy of a part time sales clerk down at Big Dave's Tires. To keep from having this re-accuring nightmare you decide to save the article. Since this magazine is a read and throw away, you carefully rip the pages out – making sure to get them all as we know the editors sometimes split the article to keep us looking through the entire magazine – and place them in your handy-dandy 3-ring binder under the first available tab. While it's still fresh in your mind write the article name on the index page by that tab number and viola! You've saved a life... even if it is a part time sales clerk.



How about that article you saw on explaining which adhesives work for what parts of your engine?



SAVED!

What about that slick billet trunk prop rod you saw that you know you'll need in another year?

Rip it!

And the copy of the exploded diagram for your Jaguar rear end, which includes part numbers?

Tear it out!

How to power tune a Holley carburetor using O2 sensors?

Ok, so you get the idea. It's not high tech but then ideas aren't either. You just have to have an organized way to find them when you need them and 3-ring binders are cheap, hard to lose and expand with the need.

If you want to keep the magazines intact and available, add a page for each magazine title and clearly list the article or item, the issue, month, year and of course the page number. You've now got an index of what you need to find when you need to find it.

This really works for me, even after a couple of beers... hope it works for you too.

Happy wrenching!!!