

PLEASE READ

Some updates and information are in order. First, let me say that I appreciate the patience afforded me by most of my customers during the past two years of medical nightmares. I was doing pretty good, but in the last couple of months things turned for the worse. There is no cartilage in my left ankle and the bone on bone pain is not pleasant. I'll see an ankle specialist in two weeks (Feb. 27) to see what can be done. Meanwhile, I'm actually catching up on orders and keeping somewhat current on recent orders. However, given the fact that every step is now painful, I've realized that I really do need to not only streamline this business, but desperately need to take the summer off to recoup, exercise, lose the hospital weight and then some and actually do some of the fun things other people manage to do like weekend trips etc. So, I will be basically closing down from May 1 through Oct. 1. No, I won't totally shut down. As a matter of fact, I'm going to hire some teenagers and get the shop straightened out and efficient; probably continue making some rubber parts and trunk panels and such to get common items in stock so there won't be the usual delay and/or confusion filling orders. Also, I have some upholstery project that need to be finished up. I might even get to work on my cars which have been waiting for over 15 years for me to do the upholstery and finish assembly.

Now some important changes in the catalog which I obviously haven't had time to redo in a few years:

Pricing: The price sheet for catalog #10 still says #9 on the top. I did have to change some prices along the way, but basically they haven't changed in several years. Catalog # 10 has been around in various reincarnations for at least 7 years. The prices other than some new items have remained unchanged for several years. The material costs have gone up plenty during that time! Also, shipping, whether by USPS or FedEx has become a problem in that 15% rarely covers the cost on smaller orders and not nearly enough on large items such as trunk panels. So, on the money side of things, I have to ask that you add 10% to the catalog price and 20% shipping. Hood pad have to have a base price increase of \$5--material cost had doubled while my price has remained constant. I will faithfully look over the order for pricing, check actual shipping costs and refund any extra. This is a lot easier and less time consuming than billing for the increases. Trunk panels and other large boxes over 103 inches length plus girth--Shipping just about anywhere in the US is \$50 or more. The cardboard and custom making the correct size costs me \$15, more if my helper does it (and it's getting to the point that I can't) so these big boxes are \$65 S&H minimum.

Some really bad news on some catalog items. Virtually all the lenses and reproduction seat plastic parts are out of stock and it looks grim for getting more. These items are made in Sweden and my supplier seems to be having some trouble, both personal and business, and I can't get any parts. With all my problems and the fact that I only made very little profit on these parts, I just don't have the time and energy to worry over it. I do have some items left and if you inquire about them on your order, I'll let you know if I have them. The chrome project went south while I was in the hospital. They shut the doors, sold out to some Chevy people including all my molds and original parts and I can't get a reply from them. Once again, no time or energy to beat that dead horse. I did find another company and got the C, D, E, hood letter sets, all the side medallion numbers and letters and the interior "300" numbers made, but so far that's all. I have several cars worth of 300B front and rear emblems; C300 rear emblems only, C, D, E trunk lid emblem bezels, and other misc. items. So, ask about your needs and I'll reply.

More catalog stuff. Floor carpets other than black are consuming more time than I have, given that one of my suppliers retired and the other one died leaving a restructured business which if not carrying many colors of carpet and virtually no loop pile other than black. I'll be glad to make you a heel pad to match your carpet sample so someone local can make up your floor carpet with the right heel pad.

Windshield and back glass seals. The constant hassle of trying to get good extrusion is more of a burden than I want to carry any more. I'm going to sell down existing stock and only carry proven accurate extrusions that are in demand. W37 is a good example. The early version works all the way around for all '57-'59 cars; no real need to splice in the W39 profile for the bottom. A professional restoration company has verified that this is their preferred choice and it works great. Likewise the later W37 version works the same way for '60-'64 cars.

There are undoubtedly other things that I've forgotten to mention, so I'll just have to wing it and clear up messes as they happen.

To streamline the process and become efficient, I really must insist that this business is mail order only and I mean snail mail, US Postal Service type. Order by part number and description, price and add it up, add the price increase percentage and shipping, write a check and mail it. I'll fill it as soon as possible. I do not wait for your check to clear, I don't run to the bank every day or even every week. Your order may very well be on the way before I get to the bank, so there is not need for you to waste time and money on money orders, cashier's check or the like. I am not set up to take credit cards, but can accept payment through PayPal under my email address. You must add the 4% PayPal charges me and tell me you paid via PayPal on your mailed order form. DO NOT assume that I will see your emailed order or even your FAXed order. Email (mostly spam) comes in at the rate of hundreds a day even with filters. Even the FAX machine is subject to spam. I'm fed up with it all and don't have the time to deal with it.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I'm really struggling here and want to continue to supply the items necessary to restore our cars. I haven't taken the time off that I should have over the last 4 decades and need to start. Keeping the basics I've laid out in ordering will result in faster service in the future.

Thanks much!

Gary