

Classic Performance Products transforms a vintage Nova into a ragin' road beast

by Tom Shaw

photography courtesy of Classic Performance Parts

ou don't have to look hard to see the influence of vintage classic cars on

the hot stuff of today. Cars like the Mustang, Challenger, and new Camaro have classic car DNA in their blood. And since old cars share their strengths with new cars, it's only fair that new cars return the favor.

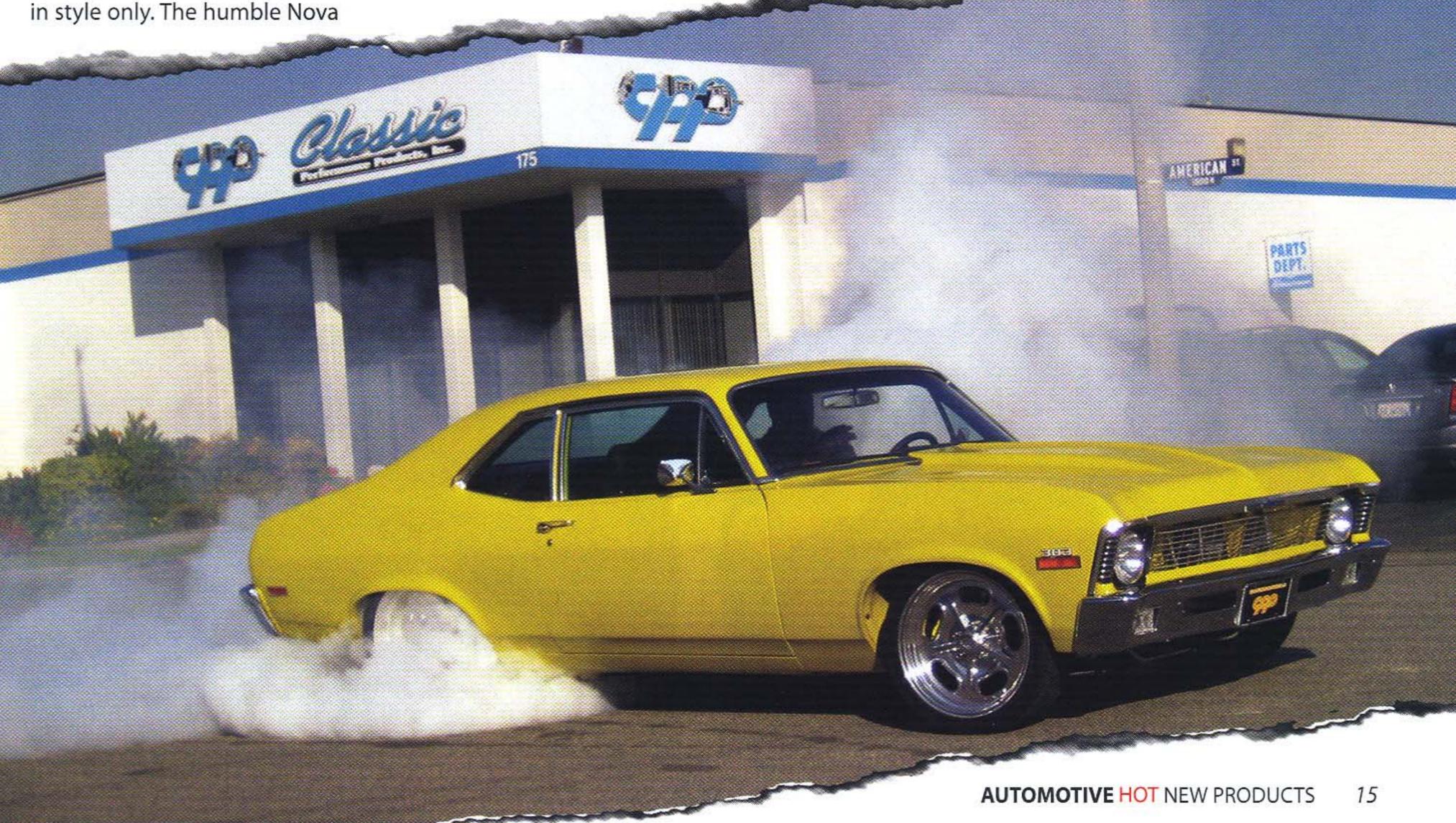
In this case, we're talking about applying new technology to vintage cars. It's not what we'd call a new trend, but occasionally, someone will do it with distinction that needs recognized, and that's what we've got here with this '70 Nova, conceived and built by Classic Performance Parts in Anaheim, California. Even more impressive is what they started with — a very weary beater.

The transformation was intended to go far beyond an update



would receive all new running gear, suspension, interior, paint, wheels, tires, and brakes. While new hardware would upgrade function, the project would retain its classic Nova shape, though the ride height would come down to lower the center of gravity and improve handling.

Starting with a way-weary '70 Nova, both the front and rear subframes were removed to make way for new tubular subframes from TCI. Up front, the weight savings is huge — 120 pounds. Following accepted rule-of-thumb science, that works out to an improvement of 1.2 seconds in the quartermile ET. But the TCI tubular subframe also improves steering geometry so there's a handling improvement too.



BRIGHT STAR

Rebuilding the front end, they selected Wilwood 6-piston calipers to work with 13-inch rotors front and 4-piston calipers and 12-inch rotors rear. A Hydratech power booster applies the massive stopping power that shaved 60-0 mph stopping distance from 174 feet for the stocker to just 112 feet for the modified car.

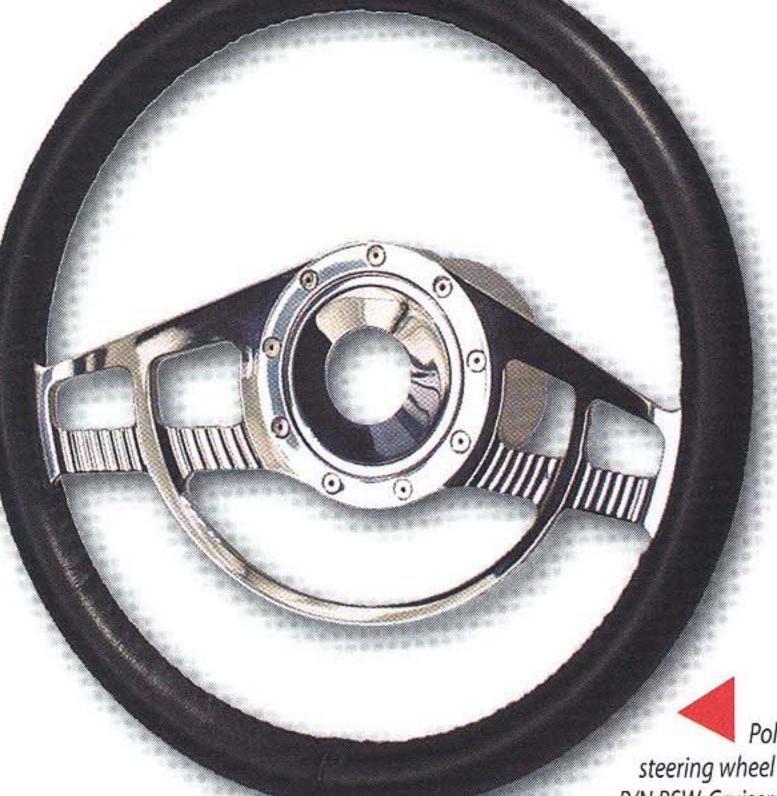
The rear subframe mounts a Currie Enterprises 31-spline Ford 9-inch axle with a limited-slip differential. Wheel Vintiques' 18x8-inch Lakester wheels mount low-profile Toyo R888 tires all the way around for maximum cornering power.

Under the hood is an Edelbrock Signature Series 383 stroker small-block. A hydraulic roller cam, aluminum heads, and 9.5:1 compression ratio combine to produce a stout 460 hp and torque. A Zoops Posi-Track serpentine belt system drives the acces-

sories and



A set of custom-ordered Auto Meter gauges monitor the engine operation. They're mounted in a Covan's dash panel. Auto Meter, 815-895-8141, www.autometer.com

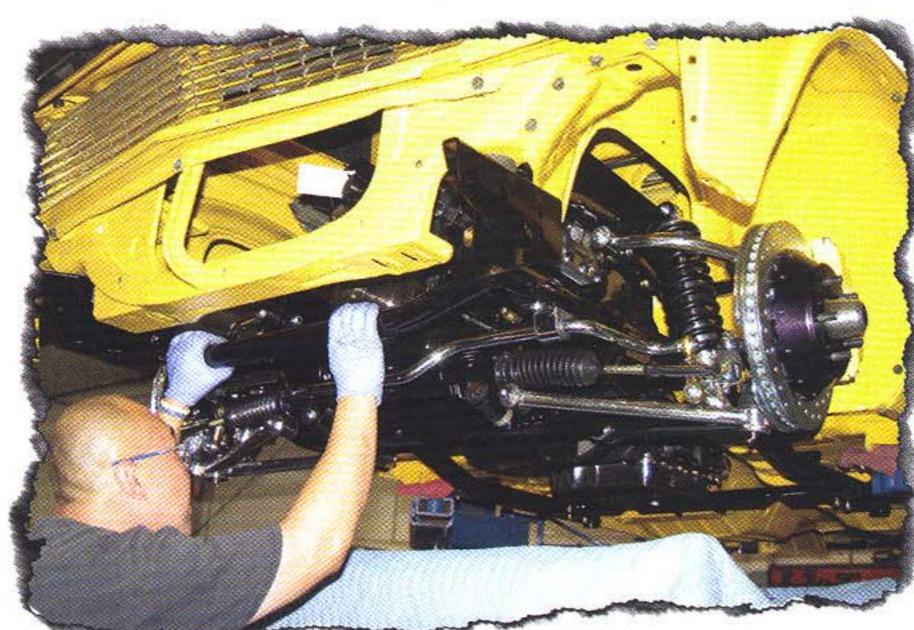


Polished billet steering wheel w/ leather, P/N BSW-Cruiser: \$249 each



Lokar billet pedal pads, Lokar Performance Products, 865-966-2269, www.lokar.com







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