



Buick Convertible

1953

Text by Platu
Photos by Teijo Toivonen

This Buick Convertible is one of the most well known kustoms in Finland. It has been on the Finnish kustom scene for many years and has also been seen at many shows and cruising nights around the country. The first owner, Esa Mikkonen did some of the modifications in the early 80's, but the way you see it now, is because of Timo Hersti from the Recyclers Car Club. Timo was responsible for many of the modifications back in the days when Esa still owned the car. (For example, changing the rear lights). The Buick was painted in a tasty black and red combination.

When Esa decided to sell the Buick, Timo was ready and the new owner was found very easily! The car was very well built, so Timo just drove it for a couple of years until the engine needed rebuilding. While the engine was under construction, he built a home made air-suspension for the car and did some other minor mechanical updates too.

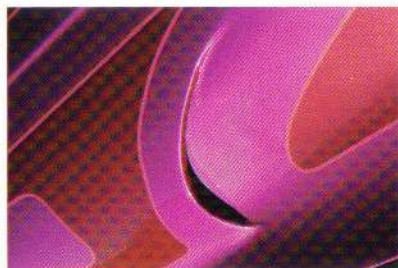
After the car was mechanically in perfect condition, Timo had time to think of some new ideas. The old black and red paint was quite dark and worn out so he decided to change the color and do some more kustomizing. The headlights were frenched and tilted back and Timo also made the two scoops on the hood and on the rear quarters. After the modifications, he painted the beautiful candy-purple color.

At the end of summer 2003, Timo sold the car. The new owner has some ideas as well, so we'll see what it looks like in the future.





Before painting, Timo did lots of very nice body work that you don't immediately recognize. Typical Buick portholes and the door handles were shaved off. Timo made little scoops on the hood sides. Probably the biggest modification was the totally new design in the rear side body panels and doors. Original horizontal edge on the side was removed and the new body line is following the curved side trim. Timo also added small scoops to the rear quarters. Less is more!!



Pinstripes and outlines on scallops were done by Platu. Behind the grille is a polished air tank for the air suspension. Tilted and frenched head lights, together with the '55 Caddy dagmars make the car look like a beast.



'56 Packard tail lights and a '53 Packard bumper give the car a totally new look. The rear bumper sits perfectly because the section under the taillights is also from the same '53 Packard. Recyclers Car Club logo was pinstriped on the trunk.

