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# How To Build A Traditional Ford Hot Rod (Motorbooks Workshop)

MOTORBOOKS WORKSHOP

## How to Build a Traditional **Ford Hot Rod**



- Frame and Suspension
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- Interior and Top
- Assembly and Finishing

Mike Bishop and Vern Tardel



## Synopsis

Build your own flathead roadster just as it would have been built in the 1950s! Using a 1929 Ford Model A, this guide follows its construction from start to fantastic finish. Bishop begins with a wealth of expert advice on planning your project, finding traditional parts, and acquiring the tools, time, space, and services needed. From frame, front suspension and steering, to brakes, engine and transmission, Bishop's expert approach is fully illustrated with specially commissioned photos and line drawings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Bishop/Tardel "How to Build a Traditional Hot Rod" is the very best book of this genre that I have seen. It's chock full of good clear photos and captions that explain exactly what's going on. As well as accurate measurements. Something not found in most other books. It's apparent that Bishop and Tardel put a lot of extra effort into this book and you'll find it to be quite detailed. Even if you're building a modern style roadster or coupe, there's a lot of valuable information in this book that can apply. And at the least make you appreciate hot rod history in a manner not seen to date. Bishop and Tardel are a couple of guys who have been there and done that and if this book doesn't make you want to start building a traditional hot rod I'd be surprised.

I bought this book, then I bought a Model A. This is the only modern book I've read that can give the reader a strait forward guide to building an real hot rod circa 1950. The correct wheel choices,

banjo rear ends, Naugahyde! No Chevy 350s or billet here! Bishop & Tartel show you how the old timers did it, and then how to do it right. I use it as a reference book and take everywhere. It's the basis for my A-V8, I couldn't build as good a period car without it. The pictures are captivating, the diagrams are totally right on. If I didn't feel as strongly about this book I wouldn't be writing this review.

This book is very well done. It is mainly a one style book of ideas and those opinions and style come from the Bay Area of California so they may not exactly jive with So Cal or East Coast or anywhere else, but the info is very useful and well written. Don't necessarily agree with things like the stock 32 center cross member (too hard to change trans) or statements about the strength of stock trans and rear axles (have broken both with 304" flatties). Overall highly recommended for Real Hot Rodders, if you aren't sure of the difference, look in the trunk - if there are tools, it's a Real Hot Rod, if there are only lawn chairs, it's a Street Rod.

An excellent resource for TRADITIONAL hot rod tips and really helped me to get my head around the old school ways! My only wish is that they would also have done a similar book on building a '34 three window coupe, then my life would be perfect!! LOL

I gave this five stars due to the fact that it covers the subject matter very well. It goes into great detail on finding period correct pieces and using what you have. One drawback that I noticed is that it describes one build. It shows the steps used to create that one build and doesn't stray too far from it, meaning that it would benefit to explore more options that were available to construct this.

Overall, I like the book but I have two complaints: 1) The book glosses over some of the most technical items. Information on adapting steering and rear suspension are minimal. More pictures and diagrams for these would have helped. 2) The editing or print job is terrible, at least in my copy. Pictures are missing or misplaced, irrelevant to the chapter, or have been chopped in half. I wish I had a few pictures referenced but not found. 3) 10.25.12 - Had to add a third comment, which is the publisher, Motorbook was completely unresponsive to phone calls and e-mails.

very well done book. A lot of "traditional" rod books end up being catalog built cars with small block chevies; this one lives up to its description. I like that they use as many Ford factory parts as possible and they list all of the part and suppliers. The one warning I would give to a potential buyer

is that this book is a detailed build of THIS particular car; that is to say it is not what I would a "general" info book. Some of the info contained is applicable to any early style rod build but quite a bit is not. For instance this car runs a non-split wishbone. If you wanted to run an engine besides a flathead Ford V8 (early Olds, Y block, etc) then some of this book would be of no use to you. I was looking for a book that would demonstrate building techniques for early chassis' (splitting bones, getting the castor set up correctly, hanging the rear end, etc.); though this book only contained some info that I was looking for I still really like and recommend it. For anyone that's never built an old school rod it's a must have.

This is a well put together book which covers almost every aspect of building a traditional hot rod. There were a couple of publishing errors where a photo was not put in the correct space but otherwise well done. This is a recommended purchase for any hot rodder planning to build a traditional rod.

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