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Street Trucks

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THIS TWIN-TURBO GMC IS THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

FLAME ON

STREET TRUCKS FEB. 2018
FEATURED VEHICLE 2
1962 Ford F100
Master Cylinder/Booster

C-10 RIVALRY
VINTAGE IRON OF THE NORTHWEST



FROM
START
TO
FINISH



RT

Arclight Fab Puts Together an Original and Powerful Unibody

TEXT BY KEVIN WHIPPS
PHOTOS BY GRANT COX



BLOOD, SWEAT
& GEARS



T SEEMS THAT A LOT OF STORIES THAT TRUCK GUYS TELL FOLLOW A SIMILAR NARRATIVE. They start out as a mini-trucker, building a ride or two along the way. Then they get married, maybe have kids, and when their priorities shift, they stop building for a bit. Once the kids are in school and the cash is flowing more smoothly, they get back up on the horse and start building again. All of that applies to Jonathan Mansour of Rowlett, Texas, with one big difference: television.

“ONCE THE KIDS ARE IN SCHOOL AND THE CASH IS FLOWING MORE SMOOTHLY, THEY GET BACK UP ON THE HORSE AND START BUILDING AGAIN.”

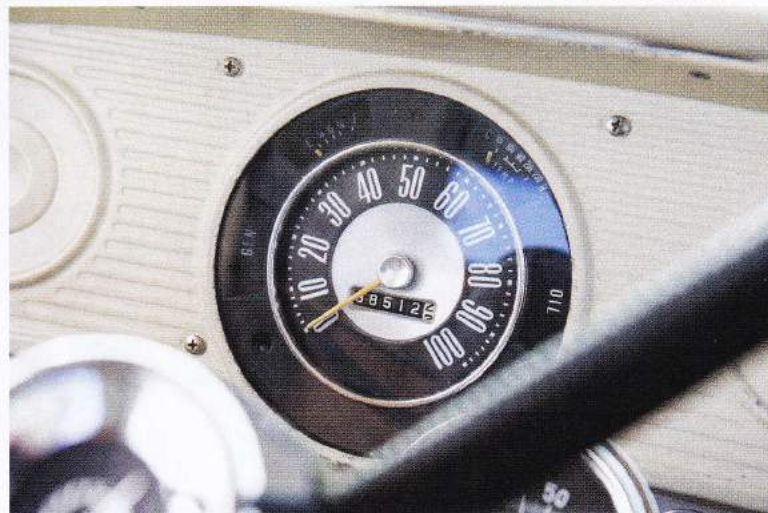
It's not often that a former mini-trucker finds himself on TV, but that's exactly what happened to Jonathan. As an employee of Gas Monkey Garage and long-time friend of Aaron Kaufman, he found himself on "Fast 'N Loud," which would be a surreal experience for anyone. When circumstances shifted and Aaron opened up Arclight Fabrication, Jonathan went with

him, bringing his expertise in marketing to the new venture. With a fresh slate and new opportunities, he wanted to build something that would bring him back into the scene and help out the shop. Fortunately, he already owned it.

Jonathan has always loved unibody Fords, but they can be difficult to find. He spent years combing Craigslist and other

RIGHT. THE T-5 MANUAL TRANSMISSION CAME OUT OF A FOX-BODY MUSTANG, WHICH KEPT COSTS DOWN AND PUSHES POWER TO THE PAVEMENT.

BELOW. EVERYTHING ON THE TRUCK IS AS ORIGINAL AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE GO-FAST AND COMFORT GOODIES.





THAT 302 V-8 CAME OUT OF AARON'S FALCON, AND—AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE—IT HAD BEEN FRESHLY REBUILT BY THE PREVIOUS OWNER.

online listing sites trying to find the perfect specimen before the right one popped up. In an interesting twist, it was only 4 miles away from his home.

It was a '62 Ford F-100 Unibody that had been purchased brand new off the

lot and never touched. With the exception of a paint job in the '80s to freshen up the finish, the truck was just driven and enjoyed for close to 40 years by the original owners, who then sold it to Jonathan. At the time, he was close to done with his

'98 Ford Ranger, and he wanted to move on to something else. But when the kids came, it was like a vacuum siphoned away his spending money, and the truck sat in his garage for around five years, never moving an inch.

TRUCK SPECS

OWNER
Jonathan Mansour
1962 Ford F-100
Rowlett, TX

ENGINE

- Shop: Arclight Fab, Dallas
- Ford 302-ci V-8 painted Ford Blue
- 300 hp
- 300 ft-lbs torque
- Ford Shelby intake manifold
- Holley 750 carburetor
- Cobra air cleaner
- Ford Factory finned valve covers
- COMP camshaft
- Mahle forged rods
- Mahle forged pistons
- Machined block
- World Product Sr. polished and ported cast iron cylinder heads
- COMP pushrods and springs
- ARP hardware
- Scorpion rockers
- COMP guides
- Ron Davis radiator
- Arclight Fab motor mounts
- Shorty headers
- Custom Arclight Fab Magnaflow 2.5-inch builder kit exhaust

- Tucked and hidden wiring
- Magnaflow mufflers
- Powermaster cast Ford alternator
- SPAL cooling fans
- 1992 Tremec T-5 transmission
- Steeda Tri-Ax shifter
- Ram clutch
- 3.70 Ford rearend
- 28-spline axles
- Kinetik battery

CHASSIS & SUSPENSION

- Shop: Arclight Fab, Dallas
- Mono-leaf front suspension
- Nostalgia Sid's drop axle
- RideTech HQ front shocks
- Front disc brake conversion
- CPP brake booster and master cylinder
- Leaf spring rear suspension
- Flip kit
- RideTech HQ rear shocks
- C-notch

WHEELS & TIRES

- 15x7 and 15x8 US Mag U102 wheels in textured gray with machined lip
- 215/65R15 BFG Silvertown front tires

- 820/15 Firestone Pie Crust Cheater Slicks rear tires

BODY & PAINT

- Shop: Arclight Fab, Dallas
- Custom Cab door handles
- Stock Custom Cab grille
- Factory Ford paint in Sandshell Beige

INTERIOR & STEREO

- Work performed by Daniel Shop: Arclight Fab, Dallas
- Stock bench seat with leather upholstery
- Rubber floor mat
- Retro Sound head unit
- Alpine 4-inch speakers in the dash
- Silent Co. sound deadener

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE OWNER: "I'd like to give a special thanks to my wife for the support and long hours during the build and for holding down the fort. The build wouldn't have been possible without the help of my good friend, Aaron Kaufman. From parts around the shop from previous builds to the labor involved to make it happen, I couldn't have done it without him."



THE WHITEWALLS AND 15-INCH US MAG WHEELS PAIR NICELY ON THIS CLEAN UNIBODY.



IT MIGHT HAVE SAT FOR YEARS, BUT NOW SITTING IN IT IS QUITE THE COMFORTABLE EXPERIENCE.



Eventually, Jonathan got tired of waiting, and he and Aaron started on Phase 1 of the build, which focused on getting the thing running relatively reliably, and bringing it down to the ground a bit. They installed a Nostalgia Sid's drop axle paired with a mono-leaf. Aaron made a flip kit for the rear, and they left the drivetrain as-is. For 18 months that worked pretty well, but eventually the drum brakes and iffy motor became too much for Jonathan to deal with, so they decided to move on to Phase 2.

This time around it was all about power, both moving forward and stopping. The brakes were upgraded to disc with a CPP brake booster and master cylinder. Then the motor was swapped out for a Ford 302 that originally lived in Aaron's Falcon and only had a few miles on it after its rebuild. Paired with a five-speed instead of the ancient three-on-the-tree manual, he had the ability to put the power to the pavement reliably and smoothly. It's how the truck sits today, and it looks great.

Of course, there is a Phase 3 in the works. One of the plans over at Arlight is to build parts for 1957-79 Ford trucks, particularly a full chassis kit for each model. One of the first that they're going to build will sit underneath Jonathan's unibody, and even though it's going to be tight, the plan is to get both his and Aaron's trucks done for LST in 2018. It's a lofty goal for a new shop, particularly one that's now going to have its own TV show. But if there's anybody that can do it, the team at Arlight Fabrication can certainly pull it off.

It seems that a lot of stories that truck guys tell follow a similar path, but they never end quite the same way. Jonathan and his '62 have a bright future and some lofty goals to hit. If there's one thing that's sure, you can bet it's going to be a fun ride. **ST**

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