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Showcase


JANUARY 2001

Made to Order

Custom-Crafted Cars
and Sport Utes
Shine in the New Year

*FUTURE WORLD:
Gas-Free Vehicles and
High-Tech Homes*

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Barrett-Jackson Car Auction Turns 30

A Perfect Fit

Discerning car buyers are going to discover that this year's glut of custom car options will suit them just fine.

BY PATRICK C. PATERNIE

Packing a Wallop

Cincinnati Reds slugger Ken Griffey Jr. bought this 408-hp RENNtech Mercedes-Benz CLK60 GT, which features a 6-liter V-8 engine, for about \$150,000.

PHOTO BY JERRY WYSZYCKI

A PERFECT FIT

A Singular Focus

For more than 20 years, Steve Dinan's company has been focused on improving the performance of BMWs. As a testament to the high standards he has set for his modifications, Dinan products are available at a network of independent tuning shops and at more than 80 BMW dealerships nationwide.

While owners of M-series cars are the best customers, Dinan's latest product offers M5 performance to owners of late model 540s equipped with automatic transmissions. It is a supercharger kit that develops 404 hp when you feel like dialing "M."

Suspension and brake improvements are also part of Dinan's expertise. He is continuously working on modifications for new models such as the 330, 325, 3.0-liter Z3, and the X5.

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Dinan plans to build just 50 ISR 3 BMWs, including this \$37,000 M roadster.



RENNtech's CL60, a modified Mercedes-Benz, is quickly becoming a favorite among car enthusiasts.

Top Performer

Intensive high performance from Mercedes-Benz models is Hartmut Feyhl's specialty at RENNtech. Many of his customers are club racers who seek brake and suspension upgrades that will work weekends at the track as well as put fun in the daily commute. Feyhl has big plans for the new C-Class, but he says current customer demand is for modifications to the new CL and S models.

Feyhl enjoys a good relationship with his former employer, AMG, which became the tuning subsidiary of Mercedes-Benz three years ago. In fact, Feyhl grew up in Afalterbach, Germany, AMG's home city, and worked for them for 12 years before starting RENNtech in 1989.

RENNtech's goal is to allow customers to individualize their vehicles without compromising the drivability or quality expected of a Mercedes-Benz. "People pay big money and expect to get a car that still has the reliability of a Mercedes-Benz," he says.

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