

## 1966 'Cuda Rally Hood



By Roger Kizer

I have been looking for ways to dress up the hood on my 1966 Barracuda and have seen many different hoods and scoops that came on the various Mopars over the years. But simply bolting on a scoop just didn't seem right. I was at a car show looking at the E body Barracudas and thought that the rally hood from a 1970 to 1974 'Cuda would look pretty cool. Not a functional scoop and larger than the 1967 to 1969 hood bulges.

I found a free hood close by that the owner was ready to scrap because it had come from a drag race car. It had a snorkel scoop fibreglassed to the bulges, but the hood was free! Follow along as I test my welding and body skills to produce a really cool hood for my 66 'Cuda!

**The starting point. A free 1972 'Cuda Rally hood complete with snorkel scoop and gaping hole beneath. Oh yeah, this is going to take some time.**



**15 minutes later the scoop is off.**



**16 minutes  
later.**

**Well.....since I  
had it, I, um,  
thought I would  
at least see  
what it would  
look like.**

**Yeah,  
umm.....NO!**



**It took awhile to get all the fiberglass and bondo off so I could think about filling the hole.**



**Using a less than flat piece of sheet metal, I welded it in and bent it as necessary to reproduce the contours. My choice of metal will make the bodywork process a little harder.**

**If it was easy then everyone would do it!**



**I got my bondo on! Here is where my choice in sheet metal will haunt me. Much work with the hammer and dolly was needed as well as a pick hammer to get things flat-ish.**



**The hood is mostly flat so I sprayed on some cheap primer for protection and called it a day.**



**A little more sanding and pick hammer work prior to removing the the hood skin.**

**After measuring the 66 hood I marked the 72 hood and cut off the outer skin. It was only glued to the hood bracing so it came off without any bending.**



**I think it needs  
some trimming.**



**I trimmed and cleaned the edges for welding. The underside was cleaned of all the glue and it was prepped with rust converter and a coat of spray paint.**



**I figured out how to trim the new metal to fit to the original hood's centerline. Cutting it back that far will allow me to push the tips of the scoop spears down for welding.**

**I centered the hood side to side after I had it positioned front to back. I marked the hood and ground it to bare metal for welding**





Tack welds were done, the position of the hood checked and then the fun begins! Pushing the edge down with a piece of 2x4 as I went along, I welded the edges making sure to weld about a foot from the last weld to minimise warpage.

Next up, grinding all those welds. Ugh!



Let the filler work begin! I spread it about 6 inches from the edge to feather it wide. I really wanted it to look smooth when done. The back edge won't look as smooth as the sides as its only 3/4" from the back edge of the hood.



All the edges are feathered and as smooth as they are going to get. The center of the hood got more attention and worked it straighter also.



**One coat of  
high build  
surfacers/primer**

**In this view it is  
really starting  
to look like a  
hood. There are  
many small  
imperfections  
that now need  
attention.**

**They will be  
sanded out and  
the hood  
primed again  
for final paint.**



**After block sanding the first primer coat, I found a few areas that needed more attention.**

**Grind, Fill, Prime, Repeat!**



**The final block sanding is done, the car was washed and all systems go for some blackening .**



....and there  
you have it.



**There is some clean up to do and the hood inserts need to be refinished, but so far it's looking good.**



**These are the used scoop inserts I picked up from ebay. They came with the plastic gaskets that fit between the hood and the insert and with the small grills that fit inside the scoops**

**The scoop inserts are either aluminum or pot metal and cleaned up easily with some 320 grit sandpaper. A quick coat of primer and**



**semi-flat black  
and they are  
ready to install.**



**Here they are  
installed.**

**Last cruise of  
the year.**



**Another shot.**





So here is my  
1966 'Cuda  
with the little  
known "Rallye  
Hood" Option.

This is one of  
my more  
involved  
projects. If I  
had to do it  
again I would  
use a hood that  
did not have a  
large hole in it  
and I would  
have cut some  
of the original  
hood skin away  
for weight  
savings. Also I  
would have the  
scoops before  
starting any  
body work so  
they could be  
fitted to the  
hood properly.

I don't think I  
can sneak into  
the A body  
Stock class at  
Carlisle  
anymore!

