

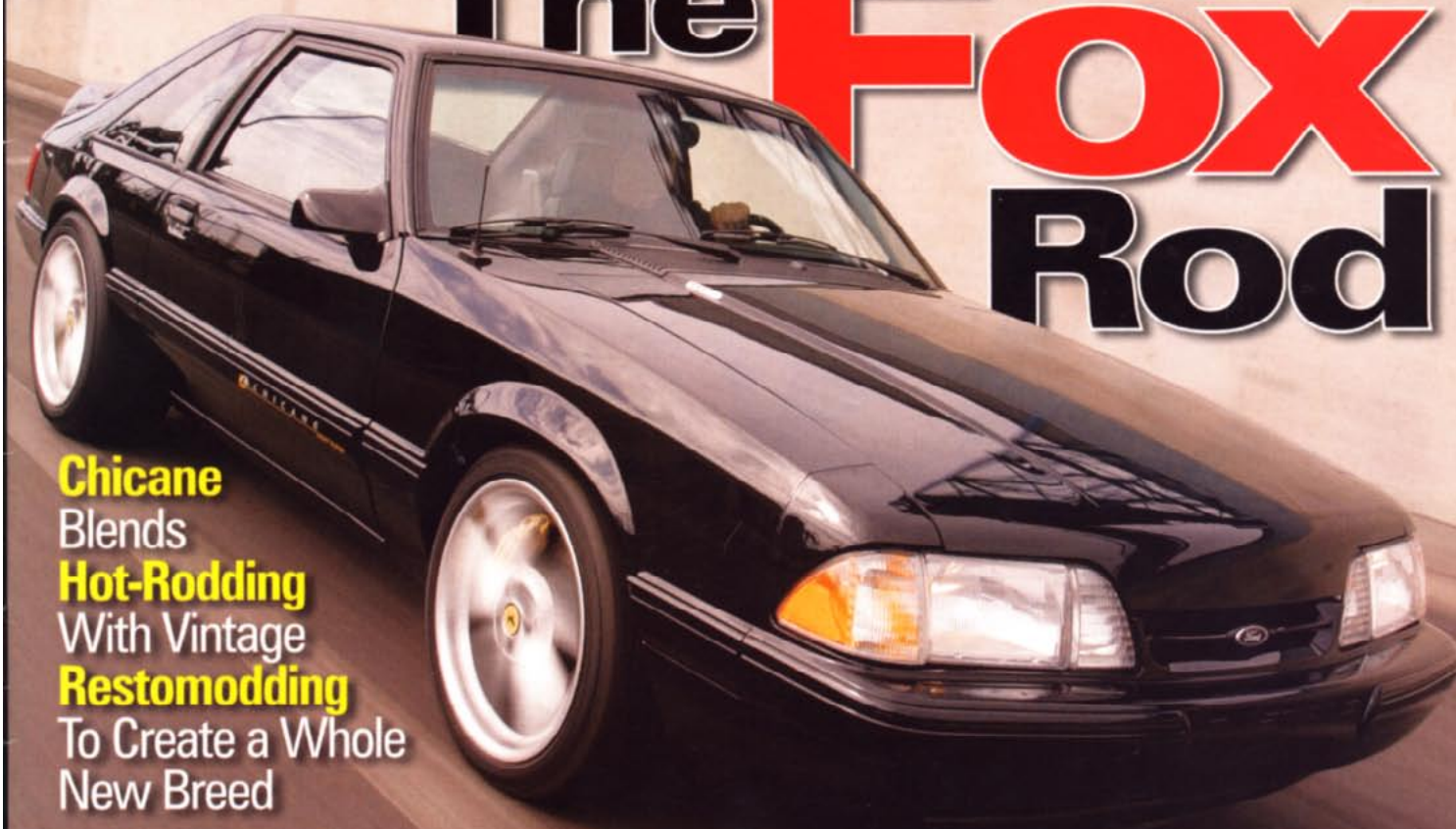
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5.0

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ROCKFORD FOSGATE '05 MUSTANG



Power Over

ROCKFORD FOSGATE AMPLIFIES THE LATEST MUSTANG WITH DRIFTING STYLE, VORTECH POWER, AND 2,800 WATTS

By Steve Turner Photos by E. John Thawley III



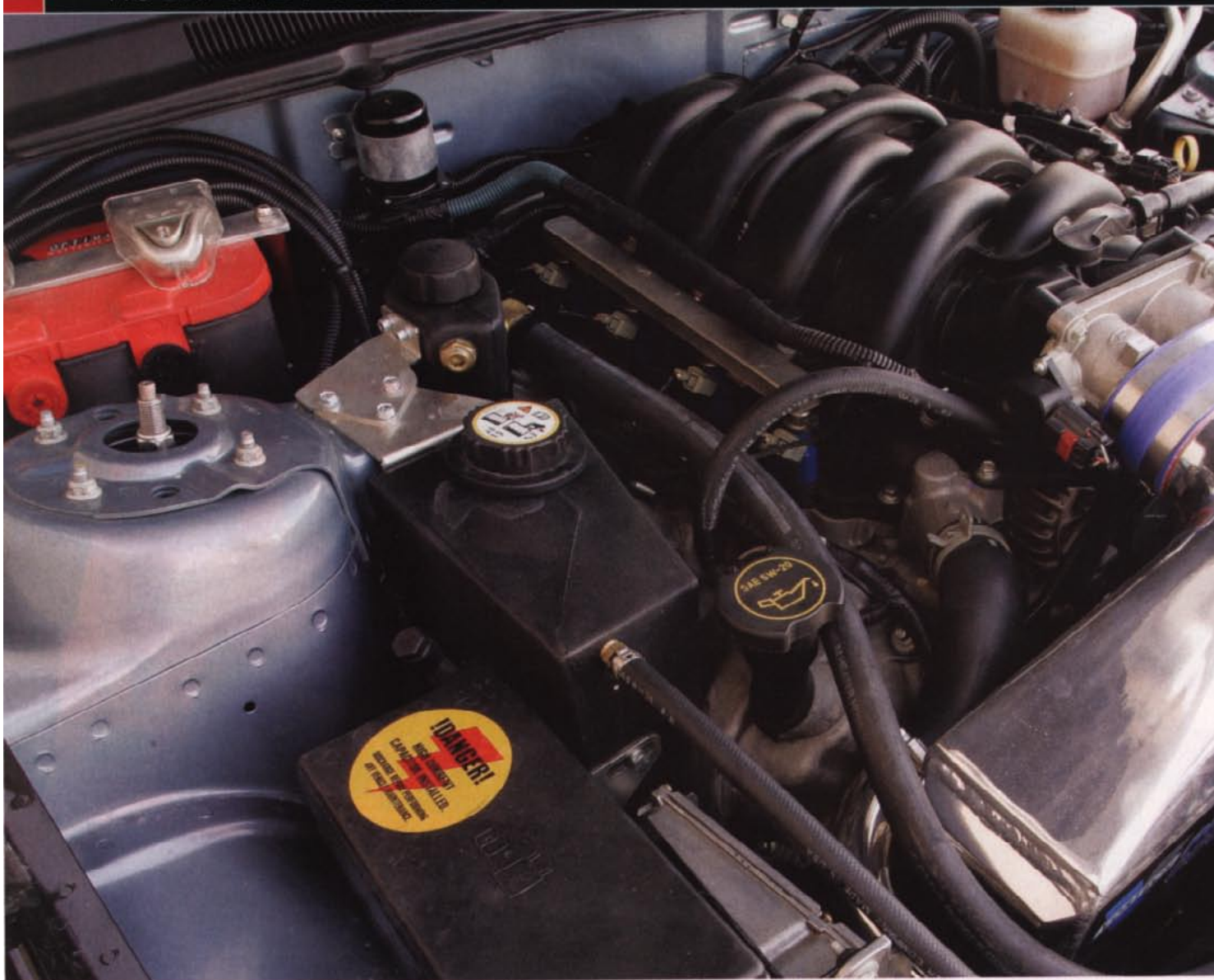
▲ Designed to show off Rockford Fosgate's wares on the Formula Drift circuit, this '05 project car takes on a decidedly drifting flair. In fact, it wears the same 3D Carbon body kit as the Falken-sponsored drift entry driven by JR Gitten ("Swift Alliance," Jan. '05, p. 36). 3D Carbon's Boy-Racer kit is sharp, as are the Zenetti Five wheels, wearing—you guessed it—Falken tires. That's a Precision billet grille replacing the factory honeycomb.

Long before I was a full-on gearhead, I was a rock 'n' roller, and I had to have tunes in my ride. Having a rockin' system made driving even the crappiest car more enjoyable. As I got into Mustangs more, power became just as important a component to driving pleasure, but I never left behind a passion for loud music. Let's face it—in today's hectic world, the only place you have the time to fully immerse yourself in music is on the road. Whether you're commuting to work or going to a car show, driving provides the opportunity to shut out the world and crank your favorite tunes.

Oh how I would love to own a car like Rockford Fosgate's latest show Pony—an '05 Mustang loaded with power and wattage to spare—especially when I was 16! This car is designed to show off the company's wares to the youth movement attending events such as Formula Drift and NOPI. In the Mustang world, we like to think of these as "import" events, but more and more they are simply the automotive world's way of appealing to younger consumers. American cars have been quite successful, and for several years they've been showing up on the show fields at NOPI events. It may not be our cup of tea, but it's reassuring to see that our beloved

Horse Sense: While drifting, a "power over" drift is achieved by entering a corner at full throttle to create massive oversteer to hang the tail out. It's a technique that's the forte of big-power rear-wheel-drive cars like the Mustang.

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▲ Now we're talking! Rockford Fosgate didn't just go with the show and boom—it added a little extra wattage under the hood as well. A high-output, aftercooled Vortech supercharger expands the stock Three-Valve 4.6's dynamic range with 10 pounds of boost, resulting in 419 hp at the rear wheels. That's more than enough to get the car going sideways with the tires spinning. Tony Szirka of UMS Tuning in Tempe, Arizona, spun the wrenches on all the car's performance mods.

Mustang is still a desirable car to the next generation of car enthusiasts.

Of course, if you're going to get the crowds to turn their eyes away from 300-foot sideways burnouts and itsy-bitsy bikini contests, you can't just roll out a stock Mustang. The crew at Rockford Fosgate ordered up several buckets of red, black, and silver paint from House of Kolors, but you can't put even HOK paint on a stock car and call it a showstopper.

The next step was ordering the same 3D Carbon Boy-Racer body kit on JR Gitten's Falken-sponsored drift car. The car, paint, and body kit landed in the capable hands of Drew Brothers Customs in Chandler, Arizona, where they laid out the sleek silver-over-red scheme.

That scheme carries over under the hood, as the silver engine bay contrasts with the red fenders. What really stands out is the





THIS CAR IS DESIGNED TO
SHOW OFF THE COMPANY'S
WARES TO THE YOUTH
MOVEMENT ATTENDING
EVENTS SUCH AS FORMULA
DRIFT AND NOPI



▲ That 3D Carbon rear bumper cover sure is sweet. If it's in the car, it's called out by a decal on the outside.

▼ The Rockford Fosgate Mustang rolls on a suspension built by Japanese manufacturer, Tein (pronounced "tane"). The company currently has suspension gear for S197 Mustangs, as well as '00-'05 Foc. An SN-95 suspension kit was forthcoming when we were writing this story. To learn more about this new suspension player, check out www.tein.com.



ROCKFORD FOSGATE '05 MUSTANG



▲ Of course, the serious Rockford Fosgate (www.rockfordfosgate.com) hardware occupies much of the car's hindquarters. In its entirety, the system cranks out 2,800 watts and 159 dB. Anchoring the system is a monstrous 2,000-watt mono amp (PN T2000IBD), which pumps out the bass via the two RF 15-inch TZ subwoofers.



▲ An 800-watt, four-channel Rockford Fosgate amp (PN T8004) powers the main sound stage of two 8-inch RF Punch woofers in the doors, and two RF 5 1/4-inch component speakers mounted in Q-Logic kick panels.



▲ Sending tunes to all those Rockford Fosgate amps is a Kenwood Excelon DDX7051 head unit, which allows you to listen to a myriad of sources—CD, DVD, MP3, satellite radio, and more—and select them via a touch-screen interface. This obviously custom installation was the handiwork of Sound Expressions in Phoenix, Arizona.



▲ In contrast to the automatic shifter poking out of the console, the Auto Power 'cage connotes a fairly serious intent. While the Sparco seats give the interior a racy feel, the Sparco steering wheel really provides more of a performance demeanor. It certainly makes us wish the manufacturers had a better airbag-deployment point than from the steering wheel.

ROCKFORD FOSGATE '05 MUSTANG



▲ Short of the '00 Cobra R, we've never been huge fans of big wings on Mustangs, but on the 3D Carbon kit, it all seems to work. Like the bold bodywork and paint scheme, the liberal use of sponsor stickers is part of the drift aesthetic.

Vortech Max Flow Power Cooler on the front of the throttle body. This air-to-water aftercooler chills the 10 pounds of boost from the Vortech supercharger. With only the Vortech and Flowmaster mufflers, the car puts 419 hp to the rear wheels, which should be

sufficient to impress the younger generation. If it's not, the 2,800-watt Rockford Fosgate system generating 159 dB should be enough to get anyone excited about the idea of burning tires and violating county noise ordinances. Ah, to be young again... **5.0**

5.0 TECH SPECS

ENGINE AND DRIVETRAIN

BLOCK

Stock

BORE

Stock

STROKE

Stock

DISPLACEMENT

281 ci

CRANK

Stock

RODS

Stock

PISTONS

Stock

COMPRESSION RATIO

Stock

CAMS

Stock

HEADS

Stock

INTAKE

Stock

THROTTLE BODY

Stock

MASS AIR

Stock

POWER ADDER

Vortech SQ S-Trim w/Power Cooler

INJECTORS

39-lb/hr

FUEL PUMP

Vortech in-tank

HEADERS

Stock

EXHAUST

Flowmaster mufflers and tailpipes

TRANSMISSION

Stock five-speed automatic

DRIVESHAFT

Stock

REAR END

Stock

ELECTRONICS

ENGINE MANAGEMENT

Stock Spanish Oak with Vortech

flash tune

IGNITION

Stock

GAUGES

Stock

SUSPENSION AND CHASSIS

FRONT SUSPENSION

K-MEMBER

Stock

CONTROL ARMS

Stock

SPRINGS

Tein

STRUTS

Tein

CASTER/CAMBER

Tein

BRAKES

Baer w/Hawk pads

WHEELS

Zenetti Fives

TIRES

Falken 255/30-20s

REAR SUSPENSION

SPRINGS

Tein

SHOCKS

Tein

CONTROL ARMS

Stock

BRAKES

Baer with Hawk pads

WHEELS

Zenetti Fives

TIRES

Falken 255/30-20s

CHASSIS STIFFENING

Auto Power rollcage