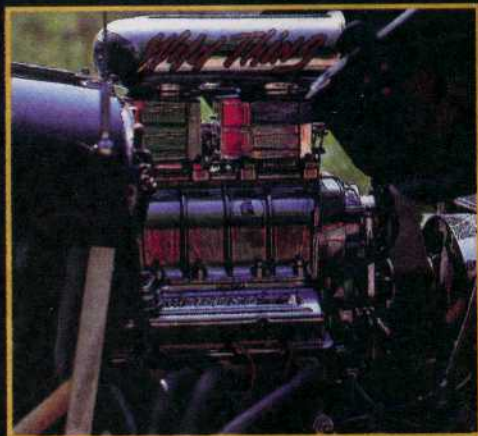


When Jim Daley created his custom '81 CJ-7, he knew that it had to be done right. A resident of Mt. Kisco, New York, Jim planned to place a Blower Drive Service-blown Chevy 350-ci V-8 equipped with dual Predator carbs up front to turn the 44x18.50-15 Ground Hawgs that he was going to mount on 15x14 Mickey Thompson Alcoa aluminum wheels. To that end, Jim bought a Ford 9-inch front axle from Currie Enterprises. The bulletproof setup features 31-spline shafts turned by a 4.86:1-g geared open differential, Selectro hubs and '81 Jeep spindles and brakes. The pumpkin has been cut and turned up 19 degrees. The rear is from a '72 Bronco and is identical to the front, except for the Street Manufacturing rear disc brake kit. A set of custom driveshafts with CV joints delivers torque to the axles, and a TH 350 automatic tranny bolstered by a shift kit sits in front of the Dana 300 transfer case.

Shifting the rig from stock height to tall and cool without destroying the ride quality was accomplished by re-arching the springs from a 4-inch Trail Master suspension kit another four inches and placing the leaf packs on top of the axles. Double shocks at the corners control jounce and rebound, and a Trail Master stabilizer controls bump steer. A custom steering-box bracket and a 4-inch-drop Pitman arm complete the chassis alterations.

The Laredo-package body was painted with Glasso Black and striped in orange, white, apple green and lavender, and the entire body was clear coated with urethane. The radiant, raven-colored cab was mounted to the frame (also painted Glasso Black) through a Trail Master 3-inch body lift kit, and it was treated to a bevy of handsome chrome-plated accessories.

It's a beauty of a Jeep indeed, but what makes it feature-worthy are the mechanical detail and sturdiness that Jim built into it. Not only did he include features such as Olympic chrome windshield hinges and Kentrol chromed door hinges but, in an effort to create the perfect performer, he also properly enhanced the Jeep's physique. **P4W**



DALEY DRIVER

A CJ-7 WITH ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

By Stuart Bourdon



PHOTOGRAPHY: STUART BOURDON