

UNUSUAL PRODUCTS



A New Idea in a Car Cover

This column is designed to showcase a product which can make your restoration job a little better, a little faster, or just a little easier. Products shown here are not necessarily new, but they might fall into the less-than-common usage category. We are not necessarily endorsing the product or the manufacturer, but just passing the information along to you.

One of the biggest problems about using a car cover is that they are a pain in the neck to open, put onto and take off the car and fold up and put away. Especially if you cover and uncover your car on a regular basis. A brand new product may solve those problems: The Touchless Car Cover.

We saw one of the first prototypes about six months ago. Even the designers had a bit of difficulty opening and covering a car with it. But conceptually it was good. We just saw, and tried, one of the first production models, and they've come a long way in six months. Before I could whip out my camera, it was out of the carrying case and unfolded. A matter of seconds. Literally!



Most of you have seen the sun-protectors that fit inside your windshield to help keep the car cool. Two twists and the windshield cover is open; two more twists and it is folded into a neat little disc for storage. The Touchless Car Cover works the very same way. Two figure-eight twists and it's re-folded. And it opens just as easily. The secret is a flexible fiberglass frame with a nylon covering. Just a flick and the fiberglass ribs take shape forming a tent-like housing for the car. It's extremely lightweight and lifts right over the car. A couple of straps anchor it down, and once in place, the covering doesn't touch the car. The car sits in its own little



Two folds and the cover is ready for its 36" carrying case.

protective 'garage'. The nylon cover is waterproof, dust proof, and keeps the sunlight out, protecting the paint.

Now the bad news. It is only available (right now) in one size. Big enough for most smaller and intermediate cars, but too small for an imposing 1920s sedan or a modern SUV. But my 1949 Plymouth (about 15' 8" bumper to bumper) fit inside just fine. We hope to have the opportunity to test this cover in the near future, rather than just seeing it demonstrated.



The Touchless Car Cover is available directly from the company at a cost of \$299: Touchless Car Cover, 230 E 17th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, (949) 722-7224, or see a video of this neat item on their website at www.touchlesscarcover.com

Skinned Knuckles magazine is a journal of authentic automotive restoration for antique and classic cars and light trucks. Each monthly issue contains detailed how-to and hands-on repair and restoration information in the form of articles, features, shop tips and hints. For thirty-three years they have been supplying helpful and worthwhile restoration information, mechanical and cosmetic, to the old automotive hobbyist. It is written and profusely illustrated by some of the finest and most experience restorers in the hobby.

Skinned Knuckles is available by subscription at a cost of \$26 per year. Contact them at (714) 963-1558 or by e-mail at sk.publishing@yahoo.com. Take a look at their website, www.skinnedknuckles.net for a peek at the articles in the current and future issues.

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