



Practical Restyling

By Henning and Ritch

(Mr. Ritch is currently on an extended tour of the Eastern Seaboard, gathering firsthand data on what the boys with the cutting torches and lead bars are doing to Detroit's assembly-line products. In subsequent columns he'll report on his findings.)

OF THE complete Chrysler line, we've singled out the Windsor DeLuxe

Newport, sportiest of the entire series, for our experimentation.

Dimensions of the wheelbase combined with the height of the car makes it impractical to lower the ground clearance. We'll start, then, by removing all hardware and chrome and removing the top.

Also remove the hood and trunk lid. We'll discard the former, but save the trunk lid for re-installation.

The car is now ready for the torch.

Cut cowl, doors and rear body section at the horizontal fender line. Lower cowl and rear body section to fender level and tack weld.

Now, before replacing the top, take a three-inch cut from the base of windshield and posts. Cut back edge of top to bring the rear window forward so it will almost converge with side windows. Do NOT cut rear window; you will need it.

Set top back on body, locating windshield posts in their original position. Do not worry about where the rear will rest since you can fill the gap with sheet metal, suitably shaped and tacked on.

Use sheet metal also to extend fenders fore and aft to provide desired effect. (See drawing.)

Air vents in fenders behind wheels are formed by stainless steel. These serve a definite purpose, as well as being decorative, in that they allow a complete flow of air over the brakes, reducing drag by eliminating air backup in fender wells.

For a new hood, use the bonnet of a '53 Willys Aero, suitably lengthened and fitted into place. The trunk lid can be

replaced now; it will require only some trimming at the bottom.

Finish all welding and fill the unnecessary seams. Bumpers and light rims, as well as the other fittings, are fashioned from steel and then chromeplated.

Add a good paint job and then you'll have yourself a custom job that will stand out in any company.

From this Chrysler Newport, Henning and Ritch create outstanding custom, above

