

STATE-OF-THE-ART TACH!

There are some Mopar fanatics out there who are way above average when it comes to having plenty of smarts. Most of us here at MCG have trouble programming a DVD player, so it's astonishing to us when we run across enthusiasts like Greg Garner at Real Time Engineering. A lifelong electronics buff as well as a car guy, Greg has a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering and is the Vice President of Engineering for the impressive Astran Corporation. You'd think all that would keep Greg busy, but he took his electrical inventiveness and turned his attention toward his favorite subject; old Mopars.

Greg has several vintage B and E-bodies himself. Through the years, he's noted that factory tachometers in most of these cars don't work, and truth be known, most of them never did work very well to begin with. About a year-and-a-half ago, Greg sat down to design and build an all-new electronic set of guts for the tach in his '66 Charger. The mechanism utilized the original meter movement, so visually everything looks stock, but inside the original housing is a modern state-of-the-art electronic unit which even featured fine-tuning ports so you could precisely dial-in the tach far more accurately than the factory ever dreamed of. Greg formed his own company, Real Time Engineering, to sell his Mopar related wares, and for the better part of the last year, a number of his conversion kits went out the door.

The unexpected success of the earlier tachs led Greg to realize there was an even bigger demand for the popular Tic-Toc-Tachs found in so many muscle Mopars. This prompted the invention of electronic guts

for the clock/tach combos that will literally change the way you look at your dash forevermore. Imagine sitting behind the wheel and watching a clock that actually works and seeing a tach needle that was actually reporting what your engine was doing. As a general rule, even in restored cars, the clock is just along for the ride and the tachometer needle wobbles around pitifully, if it moves at all.

The beauty of these electronic boards from RTE is that you need not be an electrical engineer to install one. If you can handle a soldering iron, you can convert your own tach in a few minutes. No kidding, since these conversion kits utilize the factory meter movements, you don't need any special odds and ends to make this adaptation work. Each kit comes with an installation manual instructions, so even if you've never tinkered with gauges before, you can handle this.

As of this writing, Real Time Engineering has tach conversion kits for every 1964 through 1974. Greg is already expanding his line of electronics to include clock kits for virtually every 1960's and 1970's Mopar and is working on other projects such as a hidden shift light for stick cars - clever, eh?

For more information, contact Real Time Engineering, 19352 Hilton Rd., Springdale, AR 72764, or call 479-756-2757. *Tell 'Em You Saw It In MCG!*

