

CHASE'N RACE'N

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Ultimate Jr Championship Knight takes title at Shane Mouzon Memorial



Plus a whole lot more!!!

GRASSROOTS TECH BARN

with: Jimmy Rivers

A GREAT BODY

Over the last several months of the “Grassroots Tech Barn”, we have been assembling our new kart and getting it ready to head to the track. The running gear is in



place, the steering components are assembled and ready, the rear axle and the hubs are in position, and after the last installment, our seat is properly mounted. Very few items remain on our to do list before we are finished.

This month we want to carry the assembly a bit further and get the bodywork bolted together and mounted on



the kart. Mounting a body can be an intimidating task to a racer that has never done it before or had it properly explained. This month we will explain step by step the proper procedure to get your body “in shape.”

Just like we have explained in previous articles, get all necessary hardware and tools ready. Once we get

started, we want to be able to complete the task at hand. Mount a set of tires onto the chassis and set the kart on a smooth level surface.

Clamp one of the side panels to the nose cone and drill two holes to mount the two parts together. I use #10



fasteners (3/16”), and drill my holes a little bigger giving about an extra 1/32” to allow movement. Two bolts per side on the horizontal surfaces is usually sufficient to keep the panels attached. Tighten the bolts to the point of contact with nylon locknuts and flat washers then back off slightly. This, along with the clearance between the bolts and the holes will allow the body components to move separately and keep from binding.

Slide the body onto the kart and into position. We want the bottom of the side panels flush with the bottom of the nerf bars. I use spacers to raise the body and hold it in



place. A couple of short scrap 2x4's work great, just place between the nerf bar and each tire. Slide the body back on one side until the wheel opening at the rear tire looks good, and mark your mounting holes for that side with a shapie marker. Move over to the other side and repeat the proce-



dure. Once both panels are drilled, go ahead and attach both sides to the nerf bars. Remove any spacers under the nose cone and center it over the front tires. Pull the nose up and out before marking the holes. This will keep the nose higher in the front and reduce the chance of it dragging the track. Mark the holes, drill, and completely bolt on the body.



Mounting a body is not a very complicated process, but like many others, the result is dependent on the quality of the parts you are working with. Cheap, low quality bodywork usually does not mount with the same ease, and usually requires support braces that may prohibit the body from being able to flex and move with the chassis. All body mounting



hardware should be secure, but stop short of tight.

Similar to the carpenter saying, "Measure twice, cut once," look twice, mark twice and drill once. This, along with a good dose of patience will get you safely through the process of getting a great body. See you next month!



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