

1953 Buick Skylark Restoration



1953 Buick Skylark Convertible

- **Owner:** Fred Zwicker - Canfield, Ohio
- **Model:** 1953 Buick Skylark
- **Engine:** Original 322 cu in (5.3 L) Fireball V8
- **Transmission:** Twin-Turbine Dynaflow
- **Paint Color:** Majestic White
- **Restoration:** By TP Tools Team using tools and body shop supplies in this catalog
- **Paint:** By Matt Willoughby using TP Tools HVLP Turbine Paint Spray System

1953 Buick Skylark Restoration - Due to the Covid pandemic, the Skylark restoration was temporarily put on hold. In 2022 the restoration was back in full swing and the finished '53 looks better than factory. Previously, the '53 had been stripped down to bare metal, patched where needed, self-etched and epoxy primed, had body work done, block sanded and polyester primed, and sanded and painted. Later it was wet sanded and buffed to a beautiful high-gloss finish.



Engine Removal - Our first step was to remove the Buick 322 CID V8 engine and transmission. Off to the rebuilders both of them went. When returned, the 322 purrs like a kitten.



Paint Stripping - The '53 had only one repaint, so we decided to strip the entire body to bare metal. Stripping is a big task but we wanted to reveal any original lead or body work under the paint.



Panel Prepping - After stripping the body and panels, we cleaned off all surfaces with a maroon scuff pad and lacquer thinner. The entire car was wiped down again and tack ragged.



Primer Applications - Our TP-99PLUS HVLP Turbine Paint System applied TP Tools® Self-Etch Primer (1K) to seal the metal. Next, TP Tools® Epoxy Primer (2K) was applied over the self-etch primer.



Undercarriage - The '53 was well preserved by a heavy coat of undercoating, but took over 400 hours to strip, grind, and wire brush off. The Stripper Air-Operated Removal Tool aided in the removal.



Undercarriage Painting - Again, our HVLP Turbine Paint Spray System worked flawlessly. We applied a red oxide primer to the floorboards and a urethane black paint (2K) to the frame rails.



Body Work/Sanding - The TP Tools® Epoxy Primer was dry sanded with 180 grit sandpaper and body filler was applied. The epoxy primer provides the best adhesion for body filler & corrosion protection.



Polyester Primer - Prior to applying, the car was dry sanded with 180 grit sandpaper and tack ragged. Then TP Tools® Polyester Filler Primer (2K) was applied to the entire car to level imperfections.



Block Sanding - The polyester primer was dry block sanded using a Dura-Block® Sanding Block with 180 grit sandpaper. The polyester primer is a thick sprayable body filler used for filling and leveling.

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Urethane Primer - TP Tools® "3-IN-1" Urethane Primer (2K) was applied over the sanded polyester primer. We then wet sanded the body with a soft sanding block and 320 grit wet sandpaper.



Final Sanding & Painting - Our final step prior to painting was to wet sand the '53 with 600 grit paper. We then wiped down the car with TP Tools® Final Wipe Solvent and tack ragged. Our single-stage urethane topcoat (2K) was then applied with the TP Tools® HVLV Paint Spray System. Four coats were applied to allow for sanding and buffing. After buffing, the finished Skylark is ready for the Buick National Meet. *Beautiful!*

'53 Skylark Receives BCA Gold Senior Award Scoring 400 Points out of 400 at Buick Club of America National Meet - Perfect Car!

July 13, 2024 - Buick Club of America National Meet, Strongsville, Ohio. After a 4-year restoration, the '53 Skylark was ready for judging. Zwicker spent endless hours paying attention to detail and originality. His time was well spent, the Buick is outstanding – just beautiful.



The Buick scored 400 points out of 400. A perfect score! The BCA Gold Senior Award was given to Zwicker and his '53 Skylark. This is the highest award you can receive. Fred Zwicker and son, Bob Zwicker shown left proudly displaying the '53 at the meet.

If you are in the Canfield area, stop in on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm to see the Skylark (& over 50 other cars) in the TP Tools Auto Museum.

Congratulations Fred & Matt Willoughby - Great Restoration!

All of us at TP Tools and the TP Tools restoration team want to wish you a congrats on the award! Visit tpcarcollection.com for more photos and information on the '53 Skylark.

