

Surf 'n' Turf

Text by Michael Semira // Photos by RCH Designs

With well over a dozen projects under his belt, Demitrios Karabinis is no stranger to the car building scene. Rather, he is among the game's elite, pumping out show winner after show winner like he was a machine in a factory. But like many at the top of their game, there comes a time when things need to be shaken up a little. Michael Jordan left the NBA to pursue his dream of playing pro baseball, Jay Z traded his mic for a big desk, and Karabinis strayed from the lure of automobiles to build more interesting projects like a custom golf cart, Harley Davidson motorcycle, 'Gamer Couch' and even a customized toilet! We caught up with him upon completion of a couple more demo items that push the customization envelope, a 2004 Ford F250 Harley Davidson Edition truck and Ultra 28 Stealth Custom Boat.

Up until this point I've failed to mention that Karabinis sits atop of Arc Audio as the operation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). And with those three big letters in his title, you bet that he has the know-how and connections to get things done. I'm sure that many of his peers didn't know where he was going when he decided to move forward with the couch and toilet build-ups, but jaws surely hit the floor when the projects were completed. Karabinis hand-picked the Ford F250 because a 4 x 4 pick-up wasn't amongst his long list of completed project cars, and it was about time Arc Audio showed what it could do with one.





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The key with the truck build was to make it as attention-grabbing as possible – a definite challenge on the streets of car-crazy California, where this ride calls home – and the easiest way to do that was to raise it. The F250 was put in the hands of Dennis and Kerri Nutters at All Jack'd Up in Modesto, CA to perform all of the suspension mods and fabrication. All Jack'D Up donated a slew of custom parts to the project, including custom rear ladder traction bars, dual shock mounts and skid plates for the front and rear. Donahoe Racing shocks and Deaver Springs help prop the truck up, while Air Lift Company delivered a set of bags for the rear to prevent the leaf springs from sagging too much.

With the Ford F250 literally 'all jacked up,' Karabinis shifted his attention to upgrading his rolling stock. Although the Harley Davidson Edition already came equipped with a set of slick

wheels, they were replaced with 20- x 10-inch Weld Racing Commanders with carbon fibre inserts and bead lock rings. Off-roading is a breeze thanks to the Toyo Mud Terrain tires measuring 38/15.5R20.

The Ford is motivated by a massive 6.0L eight-cylinder diesel engine, which Karabinis has equipped with a Bully Dog intake to help it breathe a little deeper. The exhaling process is improved with the use of an Extreme Diesel exhaust and a Banks muffler. Bully Dog also came through with the Programmer and outlook monitor to customize the air / fuel maps and squeeze every bit of juice out of the setup.

Exterior-wise, the F250 was dressed with a number of goodies to help it stand out in the crowd. Fab Four stepped in with custom bumpers equipped with winch mounts for the front and rear, and the factory Ford hood was tossed aside

in favour of a Reflexions steel piece. Bushwacker fender flares were bolted onto both the driver and passenger sides, while the rear received a pair of taillights courtesy of LED Technology. Dennis at All Jack'd Up was called upon to build a custom quad rack to cradle the Arc Audio ATV and also supplied a custom winch.

The necessary bling comes in the form of an assortment of billet goodies from All Sales Manufacturing. The company hooked up the Arc Audio project with a billet gas filler door, door handles and other exterior accents to go along with the CSI billet shell grill. The final product is a total about-face from its original street menacing Harley Davidson-inspired form, as Karabinis' creation looks like it would be more comfortable on a dirt trail than a paved road.

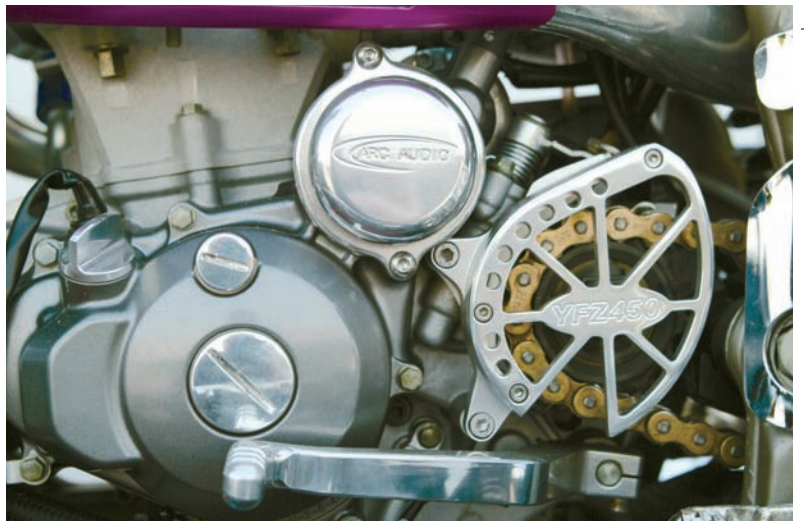
Anxious to get crackin' on the F250's cabin, Karabinis also added the All Sales Manufactur-



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ing billet touch to the interior – fitting it with door handles, shift knob and mirror. Billet Balls continued the metallic trend, supplying the build with door plates and matching accents.

To design and fabricate the multimedia system, Karabinis gave the keys to the crew at Kustom Kar Audio in Santa Rosa, CA. An Alpine F#1 Status Reference head unit is partnered with XM Radio as the system's primary and secondary sources, while an Arc Audio DXE cross-over and two MEQ-30 equalizers handle the fine-tuning of the system. Amplification comes from three Arc Audio amplifiers mounted on a custom steel frame located behind the rear seats. A pair of Arc Audio XXK 4150 four-channel amplifiers handles the mids and highs, while a single Arc Audio XXK 2500 two-channel unit provides the juice for the low-end.

The front stage is created by the Dynaudio System 360 three-way component set, with the tweeter and 4-inch dome midrange secured in the corners of the dash. The factory door panel

was modified to accommodate the System 360's 6.5-inch midbass driver.

With space in the F250 clearly an issue, the crew at Kustom Kar incorporated the subwoofers in the rear seating area. A pair of Arc Audio FL12 12-inch Flat Piston Subwoofers now resides in a custom fiberglass / MDF enclosure in the centre of the rear bench, sprayed in Harley Davidson orange paint to match the rest of the vehicle.

Visuals are flawlessly displayed via Rosen LCD monitors: two 10.1-inch flip-down units for the rear passengers and a single 7-inch screen mounted in the passenger sun visor up front.

Power supply comes through two Batcap 400 series batteries and everything flows smoothly thanks to Monster Cable wiring. The entire interior of the truck was lined in multiple layers of Dynamat Extreme sound deadening material to limit the unwanted vibration and distortion. To finish everything off inside, the truck was delivered to Vince Delgado of SeatWorks in Sacramento, CA where

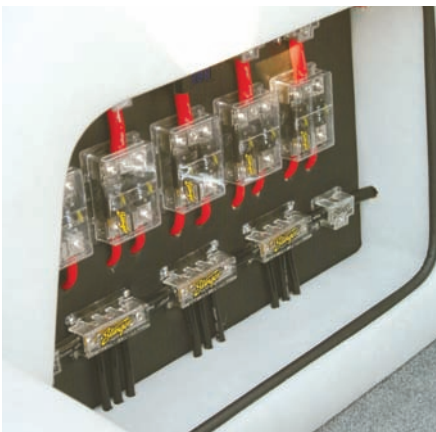
everything was wrapped in matching leather.

But this badboy is also a toy chest, as it carries a Yamaha YFZ450 quad, customized to the max in its own right by Riverbank, CA's Sand Dunes Racing.

More importantly though, is the boat this mini monster truck often tows behind it. This 28-foot Ultra Stealth is a piece of art in its own, untouched, right, but this particular example is far from standard fare. It certainly gained weight in the process, going from a weight of 4,900lbs to just over 7,000, thanks to an assortment of speakers, amplifiers and associated hardware meticulously installed into it.

Of course, the 425hp vessel was sprayed to match the truck, with the interior re-upholstered by D+S Upholstery. The paint took half of the boat's 14-day build-time, or about a week.

The other seven days were devoted to working in over 50 speakers and 20 amps, and they're hard to miss. The source unit is a Vealink vehicle-





compatible computer with 10.1-inch touch-panel screen, and the rest of the 'dash' features four pairs of Arc's Kar 265 6.5-inch component sets, while down lower, where kick panels would go, are eight Arc 8-inch Dual VC woofers. Two more 15-inch subs pound out the bass when the boat is cruising on the open water.

The occupants are surrounded with four pairs of Arc Kar 6022 coaxials on the sides, with four more of the same in the rear deck and three pairs under the rear hatch. Processing power comes via one DXE Digital Crossover and Controller, with three more Arc IDX Crossovers / Line Drivers helping out. In the bow cabin, there are no less than ten 15-inch 15D4 subwoofers, handily taking up the spots for people. You might be wondering what you'd need to power all these cones, and that is courtesy of sixteen Arc Audio XXK2500 amplifiers and four more Arc Audio XXX4150 amps.

The power demands of such a set-up are equally gargantuan: think 25,000W and a peak draw of 2,000amps! To appease this, eight Sting-er SP2150 batteries were mounted in the floor,

carefully, to spread their heft evenly. There are also four lota engineering 100A AC/DC power supplies and two Honda 3,000W generators donated by John Bilyeu at Stockton Honda Yamaha. To keep the woofers from making too many waves in the water and not the air, 10 rolls of Dynamat TacMat sound deadener was used in the build, along with 40 gallons of 'vinylester' resin and 20 4- x 8.75-foot Baltic birch sheets to create all of the framework for the audio creation.

For video, the Stealth 'only' makes do with a couple of Rosen 15-inch monitors in the bow and a 7 incher in each seat headrest. Speaking of the seats, CNC billet seat stands and other accessories and hardware from Eddie Marine round off modifications.

Heck, even the trailer from Extreme Trailers didn't escape a custom touch, as it got no less than six 20-inch Foose Design Speedster wheels shod in BFGoodrich rubber.

The build team responsible for this sexy boat's construction was made up of Cabe Sipes, Chris Irish, Chris Merrill, Fred Lynch, Jason Ewing, John

Bilyeu, Scott Babson, Todd Huffman, John West and the entire crew at Ultra Boats for the OLN TV series *Rock the Boat*.

Between the three vehicles, this is one monster of a project, and Demitrios Karabinis is the first to acknowledge that. He'd like to thank the TV Show Build Crew, the Arc Audio Staff, Chad Love, Dennis and Carrie Nutters, Rom at Stanislaus Chrome, Jim at Applied Powdercoating, Mike Crosby, Boyd Coddington Jr., Dana Zamalloa, XTC Products, Paul Pierro, Micah Ansley, Randy at LTE Racing, Jason Dillon at Sand Dunes Racing, John Bilyeu, Thomas Cope Jr., Vince Delgado, Greg Delgado (not related) Kreative Koncepts, Mothers, Warn Winches, Power Tank, Shades Tinting, Image Imprints and last but not least a shout-out goes to his children Peter and Georgia.

The package Karabinis made happen is certainly ideal for the beach, where the truck can tow the set-up to and fro, the boat can sit pretty and blast the beats from the water, and the quad act as a runabout between the two or rip up the sand. **PAS**