

FRAMED

Stiffening our 1984 Trans Am's chassis before passing it on to the next owner.

By: Richard A. Lentinello High Performance Pontiac April 1999



Until now, if you owned a third or fourth generation Camaro or Firebird that made more than 350 hp at the rear wheels, you had one limiting factor: it's exhaust.

Nobody produces a street-legal single exhaust system with a diameter larger than 3 inches for higher-horsepower Camaros and Firebirds, relegating these owners to either a true dual system, with all of its accompanying clearance problems, or living with the inadequate 3-inch system.

Now there's more. Remember the 4-inch system that was featured in "Date Line" in the May 1997 issue? Well, master exhaust fabricator Denny Tarcza of Mufflex Performance Exhaust Specialists in Trenton, NJ has just released the special system. It incorporates a FLOWMASTER ® "Shootout" series 2-chamber muffler to keep decibels to a minimum while pushing power production to a maximum. The muffler actually weighs 5 lbs. less than the factory muffler.

To ensure long-term durability, Mufflex uses only aluminized tubing, all mandrel-bent to perfect, uniform dimensions without power robbing creases. When Denny installed the system in our 1996 Formula in preparation for the upcoming 400-hp buildup, he used an-of-the-box system to prove just how ready-to-go the Mufflex 4-inch exhaust system is once received. The system is sold over the counter, so proper fit is a major concern.

Once installed, the Mufflex system had a sufficient amount of clearance throughout the under body. And with a twist of the key we were rewarded with a crisp growl that was totally unexpected. We were

concerned that with a system so big, the Formula's exhaust note would become very blah due to the lack of velocity of the existing gases, the result of the bigger 4-inch piping. We were wrong, the sound is just right.

Also, the throttle response is quick off idle with no noticeable lag, and the LT1 seems to rev noticeably freer at the upper rpm's. At the track, our formula ET dropped a full tenth, but that's a tenth more than we really expected since our poncho is only making about 310 hp at the rear wheels. The big gains and proof of this system's value will come when we bolt on our ported LT4 cylinder heads, intake and bigger cam. Stay tuned..

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