

Burner name: PyroCelt



Introduction

Last year at Transformus, a number of members of my theme camp, the Philosopherz Stone, decided that we needed to bring an art car to take to burns. We have been coming to Transformus for several years and Alchemy since it began, and we thought it is time to contribute at a deeper level. I really wanted a trailer to take our Audio Assault all over burns. One of my super highlights of last year was listening to one of our campmates on the piano. I thought it would be nice to spread her music around a bit, maybe listen to her playing to the dying embers of the effigy burn as the sun rises. This idea of a sound trailer stuck in my mind, being able to spread sonic art around in the form of our diverse DJs, spoken word, and chiller music.

The Vision

Looking at options, with the economy the way it is, purchasing seemed out of the question. So, my plans became simple: thinking of something artsy involving a theme and lots of person-hour enhanceable options - without too much monetary investment. I started to look around and think, what do we already have? I realized my purple '69 VW Beetle was just about a pre-made art car! We could take off the doors (they are attached with four Phillips head bolts on each side) and it would do just fine. Although, I wouldn't do it on the highway, it could pull a small trailer at slow speeds. I started thinking, if we have a trailer, another fantasy of mine was to have a stripper's pole for peeps to dance upon. And, with my father's technical seal of approval for structural integrity (he has worked on VW's since before I was conceived), I realized the pole should be on a round platform roof rack mounted on my Beetle. Then I thought, it would be amazing to have wings coming out from the beetle, to give it kind of inverted, winged zeppelin look.

The First Round of Funding

We applied to Transformus for an Art Grant and go approved! They awarded us \$599, which is awesome, but will pretty much only just cover the car. So, looking for additional funding, and knowing this vehicle is definitely coming to Alchemy, have decided join in this art grant process as well. This funding will mainly cover the sound

trailer and anything that runs over for the Beetle itself. I have left most of the application as it was for Transformus to leave the continuity of the overall application thought we have update and a few things as projects have proceeded. So far the roof rack is almost complete and we have acquired the pole and "flange" to mount the pole to the roof rack. I have also constructed purpleheart wood bumpers, registered the domain name www.STEAMBUG.com and started a blog to follow along the process (which the domain name points to).

Stage One - Roof-rack and pole

This would be rather basic: removing the doors (this can happen later); building a small, round wooden circle, mounting it to the beetle (I already have the roof rack mounts); and attaching a stripper's pole to it (this is easier than you may think). I am pretty sure we can do this in a weekend, probably the majority of it in just one intense day. Discussing this with my father, we agreed that it should be able to hold two people my size (250 pounds), and should not hurt the roof or tip my beetle over. We will strongly enforce a policy of only having one small person at a time dancing on it, but it is imperative to build it safe, for when people do stupid shit.

PARTS:

- 1/2 inch plywood
- 2/4s for frame and diagonal
- Steel tubing stripper's pole
- Stripper's pole mount
- Bolts, screws, etc

Stage Two - The trailer

This will be a small eight foot by six foot trailer with a work bench down the right side (looking from the back) for a mixer or keyboard. Under the bench there will be room for the generator, the sub woofer and possibly a propane tank.

On the front and back of the trailer there will be a frame going up and over the area with mounting for a tarp to make a sun shade or roof in case of inclement weather. This will be a cotton tarp so it is non-flammable.

Technical Enhancements:

1. On each end of the bench there will be a short steel pole (mounted on the bench) coming up for speakers.
2. Some kind of shade structure going over the trailer to protect the people and equipment. If we get a projector, this will be on a 70 degree angle behind the DJ, with a projector mounted under the table projecting up at it.
3. The bench - one thought is to make the bench out of three pieces of metal chain link fence tubing covered in pipe insulation. This will make it easy to tie down DJ deck and sound boards and what have you, give the electronics some padding, and not have any place to put drinks or other spill-able liquids.
4. Propane torches (two), mounted on each side of the bench, aimed out high over the audience. Both torches would be run off of one tank, under the bench, with a splitter. Each torch would have a propane soldering torch pilot light. They would be turned on and off by the DJ turning the tank on and off. There would also be a fire extinguisher on the back of the trailer (as well as one in the Beetle - it already lives there).
5. A four foot [Reuben's Tube](#) in front of the DJ equipment. This would be a small low powered one, with a few inch high flames and a metal screen in front of it and behind it to protect it from the audience.
6. A swing down trailer crank. If you put two adjustable jack stands under the back of the trailer, then when you crank the front stand down, it makes a very sturdy platform without a vehicle.
7. Mounting a trailer hitch on my beetle will be a bit of a task, and will likely require a professional welder to enhance and strengthen the bumper mounting points on my beetle.

Stage Three - The wings

I started thinking about possibilities of the tube of the strippers pole, running up from the roof rack, and what I could do with it, and I got excited. There are all sorts of possibilities of things one could run up there: electronics, propane torches, metal cabling. At first, I thought of a disco ball (and that's still not a bad idea) but then I had a moment of reckoning. I had the idea of rigging going out to wings (mounted just under the roof rack, two or three on each side) the could make it into a Steampunk vehicle of sorts, flapping its way around with a dancer on the main "mast" and tunes blaring out from a Steampunk trailer.

We want wings attached to the platform that can flap. This might look a little like the small wings on the [HMS Ophelia](#). There are a number of options we have been considering and it might just be a matter of building a few prototypes and seeing what we like the best. Currently, we are looking at four wings, mounted to a control tube on each side, with a motor in the middle that operates them. Don't worry, we have thought of all sorts of ideas on how to make this work, now our biggest problem is just to sort them out and figure out which one would be the best.

The wings themselves will be cotton approximately 4 - 8 feet long and 1 - 2 feet wide. The front side will be cut at an arc running to the back, with a sleeve for a PVC rib. The back side will have a few darts in it, to make the whole wing curve even more. The PVC, being bent, should hold the wing taught.

Stage Four - Or if you have lots of time, money and a needling desire to fulfill all my fantasies

- EL wire the rigging or in some other way make the wings glow (anyone have a line on EL wire for the car?)
- Projector - that could shoot up from the bench to the overhead awning
- Brass finish all of the trim on the beetle
- Wooden bumpers, to make them look more old fashioned

Budget

This budget is itemized as best as we can though we expect everything to run over budget. Getting completely turned down for an art grant would likely not entirely stop this project, but it would greatly hamper many aspects of it.

- \$300 Wood (for platform, trailer, awning)
- \$400 Metal
 - \$50 (price checked) Stripper's pole/mast
 - \$160 (price checked) 12 inch flange (Stripper Pole Mount)
 - Wing attachments
 - Speaker attachments
 - Flame thrower attachments
 - Additional hardware
- \$20 Canvas Awning (over DJ area)
- \$190 Wings
 - \$40 PVC
 - \$50 Fabric
- \$200 Motors and part
- \$50 Metal grating to protect the Reuben's Tube
- \$392 Car Parts
 - \$202 Trailer Hitch (installed)
 - \$100 Wind shield wiper motor
 - \$50 Trailer Crank stand
 - \$40 Jack stands

Total Basic Budget: \$1442

If we had our wet dreams fulfilled

- \$400 Projector
- \$400 Silent Generator (this is listed as additional because our theme camp has one, but not having to share would mean we could have tunes coming while rolling around a lot more of the time)

- \$200 EL wire plus controllers for wings to make them look real pretty

Total extraneous budget: \$1000

Grand Total budget: \$2442

Minus Transformus Art Grant -\$599

Alchemy Art Grant Application \$1843

Parts we already have:

1. VW Beetle - Purple 1969, runs
2. Trailer - old needs some love (like walls, for example, but it is road worthy and registered)
3. PA system, keyboard and mixer
4. Torches apparatus - with three foot flame torch blowers (x2), pilot torch (x2), propane splitter and propane tank
5. Generator (we have one that is also used for our theme camp, but would rather not have to share)

Additional Application Questions:

- Safety - There are three kinds of safety concerns that we are looking at, 1) is a moving vehicle at Transformus, 2) is climbing on an inanimate object and 3) is the fire aspect. In response to 1, it will be going VERY slowly, when it is moving, solely being driven by careful conscientious and sober drivers. There would probably be three or four individual who would be OKed to drive it, and that would be it (Beetle are manual and old manual, hence not that easy to drive anyway). 2) there would be a well posted sign for only one person on the roof at a time, and removable steps to get up there. That being said, it would be built to hold a lot fair amount of weight. 3) The Reuben's Tube will have a metal grill in front of it, and the up firing propane torches will fire up and out over the audience only a few feet.
- Schedule - We would like to build the car part (platform, pole, wings) in time for the Alchemy Art Party and complete the trailer by Transformus.
- Longevity - This beast would grace (curse?) many most local burns, hopefully for years to come. If we do not complete all aspects of it this year (like say, the fire parts) we could complete them in future years. Another project (probably for the future) could be a disco ball mounted on top of the stripper's pole.
- This is my first application for an art grant.
- Transportation (getting there) - the Beetle will drive itself with the roof-rack sans the pole and wings. The trailer will be pulled up by a truck and will have the pole on it.
- Locomotion (around Alchemy) - Beetles are known to be rugged and have a high clearance. The trailer is not a little dimpy golf cart trailer, it has large wheels and is built rugged. The wings will also be able to fold all the ways up and into the middle for any issues with clearance. They are also flexible. The Beetle, being just 5 feet short, really is low, and a single steel pole coming out of the middle of it, will easily push branches and what not aside.
- For cleanup, we drive it off site!

Additional links:

- http://www.gecko3d.com/tfus/steampunk_bug.wmv