

Hello everyone,

Here are some more pictures of the body fit. There is a yellow string line down the length of the body and to my amazement the body is molded incredibly symmetrical. It was no problem to line up the points of the body with the points on the chassis as seen in the photographs. If I can get a racecar, whose pieces are produced to exacting standards, to come within 1/4" that is good and this thing is perfect! I am quite pleased as well as surprised.

Other pictures show the steel frame dash. That may sound at first odd to make the dash as a part of the frame but there are several good arguments. First, notice the way it offers bridging to the tunnel and becomes a structural member. Second, by the time I put steel in to hang pedals, a steering column, and an air conditioner, I have a pretty complex frame behind the fiberglass anyway. I will cover this frame in carbon fiber and omit the fiberglass piece entirely.

In future photos you will see that the dash design gets modified. The Alpine Stereo engineers, after the initial planning, casually mentioned that the receiver and GPS cannot talk to the satellite if it is mounted more than 30 degrees from horizontal. This design was at 45. That changed the dash, fuel fill, air conditioner ducts and size, hood and trunk release points, and more. It was a big domino effect but it is under control now and the redesign is very elegant. I was initially somewhat upset but in hindsight, I am glad that they mentioned it now, that landmine could have been embarrassing for both of us.

It also makes me wonder how many more I can dodge and how many more will blow up in my face. But without them this would not be nearly as much fun.

Charley







