

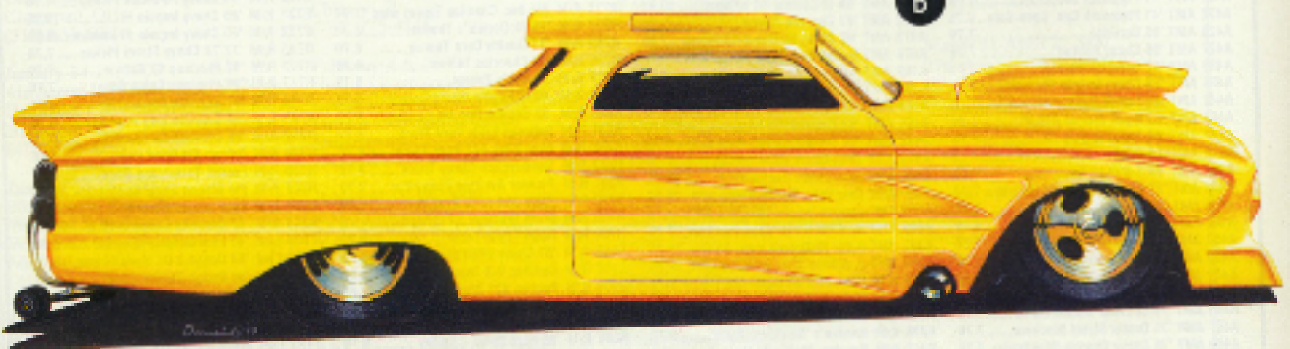
# Sketchpad

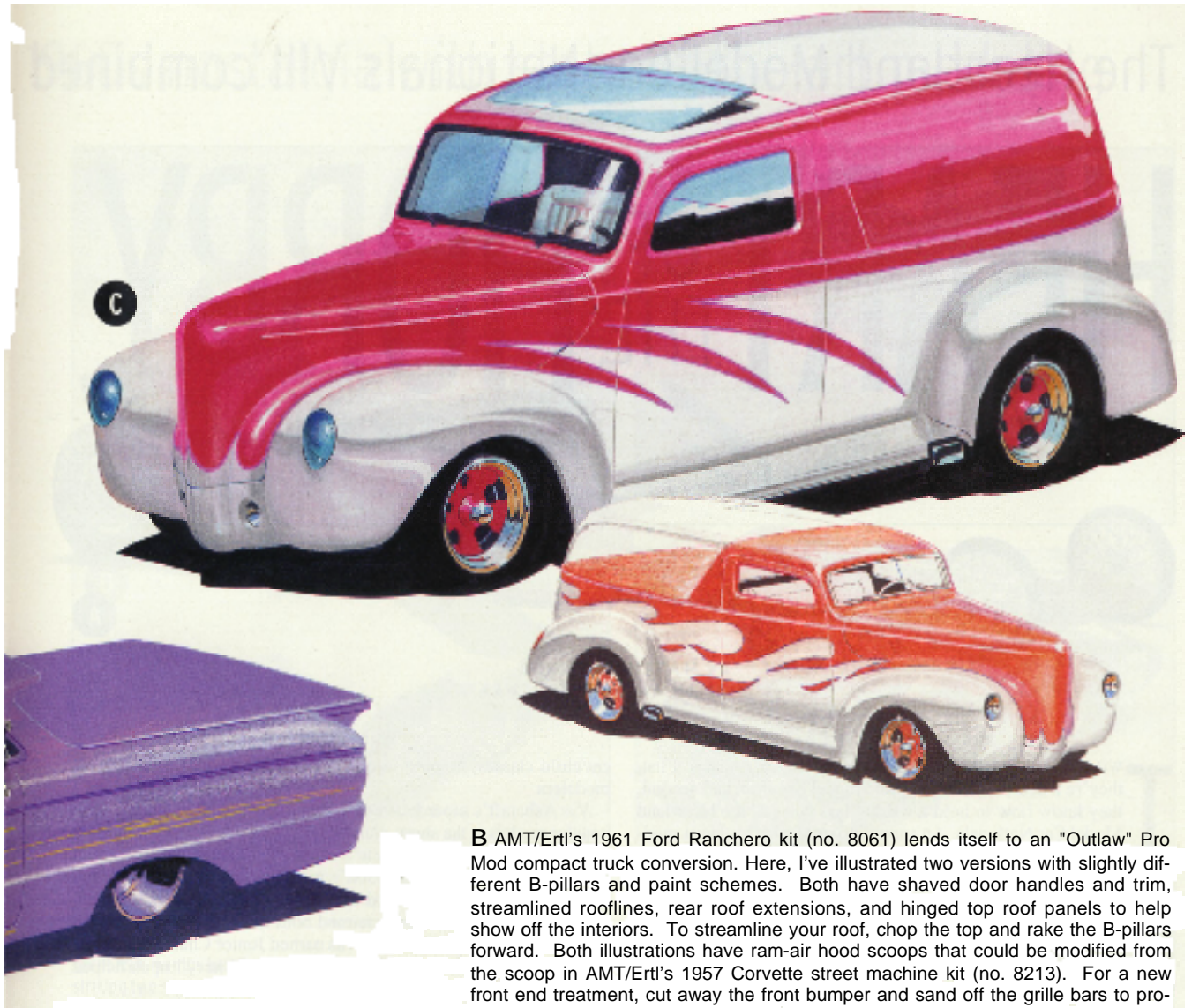
by TOM DANIEL



## New Daniel Designs

**I**T'S BEEN OVER 30 years since I've done a "Sketchpad" feature for a model car magazine, so it was nice to be asked to have some illustrated fun once again. Editor Kirk Bell's only parameters were to not go too far with the designs, and to make sure they utilized current kits. I hope you're inspired to try modeling one or all of these designs. 





**A** Lindberg's 1961 Chevy Impala SS 409 kit (no. 72163) depicts a big-bodied Chevy with interesting lines and shapes. To build this model, start by shaving off the side-spear chrome trim, raised lettering, door handles, and mirrors, then fill the resulting dimples in the body with putty and sand smooth. Chop the top, and add your choice of late-model side-view mirrors to the A-pillars. Recess a pair of symmetrical hood panels as shown, and stamp five louvers into each side. Discard the stock front bumpers and grille, then hand-form dual headlight pods, mold them in place, and tint them orange. Cut the grille bars from flat sheet stock or tubing, and have them chrome-plated. Fabricate the custom front pan from sheet styrene, and incorporate frenched horizontal turn signals into its outer edges. Flare the front and rear fenders a bit, and mount the big rear slicks on a tubbed chassis. Top it off with pearl-mist orange or tangerine paint with gloss black accents, and give the interior orange and black tuck 'n' roll seats to match.

**B** AMT/Ertl's 1961 Ford Ranchero kit (no. 8061) lends itself to an "Outlaw" Pro Mod compact truck conversion. Here, I've illustrated two versions with slightly different B-pillars and paint schemes. Both have shaved door handles and trim, streamlined rooflines, rear roof extensions, and hinged top roof panels to help show off the interiors. To streamline your roof, chop the top and rake the B-pillars forward. Both illustrations have ram-air hood scoops that could be modified from the scoop in AMT/Ertl's 1957 Corvette street machine kit (no. 8213). For a new front end treatment, cut away the front bumper and sand off the grille bars to produce the smooth shape shown. Also add clear tapered end caps over the headlights, or fill these areas, sand them to shape, and paint them to simulate glass. Cut the front spoiler from sheet styrene and use putty to incorporate in into the body. Modify the exhaust headers for the kit-supplied Chevy "Rat" motor to exit through collector tubes behind the front wheels. Extend the bed cover with sheet styrene for an aero effect. The parachute packs and wheelie bars add a sense of performance, as do the requisite rear tubs. Narrow the frame rails and rear end, and make the tubs from plastic spray can lids, or use another kit's rear clip to tub your Ranchero.

**C** AMT/Ertl's 1940 Ford sedan delivery kit (no. 8215) makes a great customizing subject. Here, the body is shaved, and the fender seams are filled and smoothed. The chrome grille is sanded smooth and cut in two, with the upper portion glued to the hood. A single hinge glued inside the lower hood extension would allow for a forward-tilting hood. Hood louvers would be cool, too, but lots of work. I've set frenched lights, which could act as foglamps or turn signals, into the lower portion of the now-smooth grille. The headlight bezels are smoothed into the front fenders and outfitted with tinted covers. Other styling touches include painted spokes on the kit's custom wheels, side exhausts that exit at the rear of the running boards, and a tinted sunroof. The crowning touch is the cutline behind the doors: This indicates the break for a removable top that would allow the builder to convert his model into a smoothside pickup. The inset illustration shows a similar model with an alternative flamed paint job, a slightly different nose, and a chopped top.