

TECH

BOXING LESSONS

Hanging A Battery Out Of Sight

BY RON CERIDONO ■ PHOTOS BY RYAN MANSON

Here's the battery, the truck, and the editor of *CCT*—makes you wonder what good can come of this.

One of the challenges when building a custom classic truck is finding a spot to put all the components necessary to make it operational in what is often a small space. It's the old 10-pounds of stuff in a 5-pound sack scenario.

Recently, our fearless editor, Ryan Manson, was confronted with that very issue; there was a battery to be

mounted and no good place to put it. A somewhat hidden location, like under the bed, would be ideal but a battery is something you should be able to get to easily. The solution to the problem was found in the pages of the Speedway Motors catalog in the form of a dropout battery box.

Just what was needed, the Speedway box would allow the battery to be mounted out of the way while still being able to maintain

access. The box normally locks in the up position or it also drops down and locks 4¼-inches lower if needed. It will also drop the box completely out of its mounting when maintenance is required.

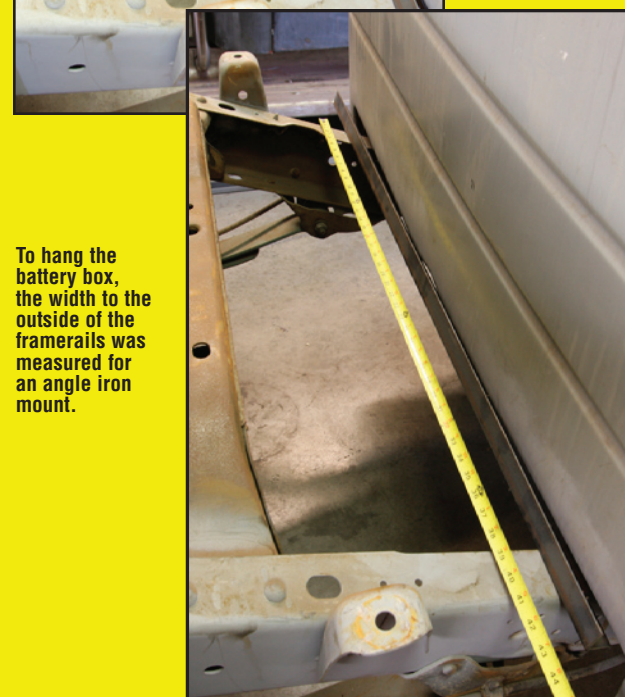
To mount the box, a simple angle iron structure was fabricated and welded to the framerrails. The battery is now hidden under the bed, but is easily serviced—don't you just love it when a plan comes together? *CCT*



The best spot to hide the battery was to hang it off the framerrails under the bed; the obvious problem then becomes access.



Angle iron was cut to length, then with the aid of a pair of angle finders to ensure the back edge was vertical, it was tack welded in place.



To hang the battery box, the width to the outside of the framerrails was measured for an angle iron mount.



Here's the drop-down battery box from Speedway Motors, here it is in the installed, or raised, position.



The location of the mount on the rails was established by measuring from a hole in each rail.



By releasing a pair of spring-loaded latches, the battery box drops down in its mount 4¼ inches. The battery box can also be completely removed from its mount.

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This framework will be welded to the mount that has been attached to the frame.



To facilitate welding, three holes were drilled in the new frame mount.



The mount for the battery box then bolts to the framework.



The framework that mounts the box was then welded to the frame mount.



Viewed from the battery box side, the mount has been attached to the previously shown framework.



Finally, the drop-down mount and the box is bolted in place.

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Safe and secure, the new Optima battery is held in place with the hardware provided.



As shown, if maintenance is required the battery is easily accessible in the lowered position.



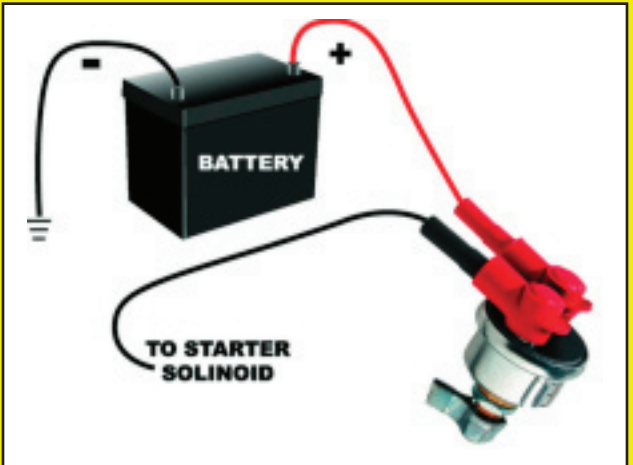
To help make battery installations easy, Ron Francis Wiring offers color-coded cable kits with ends.



Critical to proper electrical system operation are grounds; Ron Francis has kits for that too.



A kill switch is a theft deterrent, a safety device, and an easy way to shut down the electrical system when working on powered components.



As this schematic from Ron Francis shows, the kill switch should always be wired into the positive side of the battery.

SOURCES

SPEEDWAY MOTORS

(800) 879-0122

www.speedwaymotors.com

RON FRANCIS WIRING

(800) 292-1940

www.ronfrancis.com