

# modern vintage

DARRYL HOLLENBECK  
SPRAYS HIS WAY TO A SECOND  
AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL  
ROADSTER AWARD.

*"If it's got wheels, and it's cool, I like it."*





It's no surprise Darryl is obsessed with cars, especially the classics. The roots of the Hollenbeck family tree reach down to some of the first repair shops in California and on up to the start of Oakland's custom scene. At age 21, he started his career at his uncle's garage, and then honed his skills in various places for 15 years before opening Vintage Color Studio in 2003.

Focusing on rides from the '30s, '40s and '50s, the Vintage crew painted their way to a truckload of magazine covers and major awards over their first decade in business. This year, Hollenbeck returned to one of the most prestigious winner's circles with a second *America's Most Beautiful Roadster* award at the 2013 Grand National Roadster Show in Pomona, Calif.

Built by Roy Brizio Street Rods, the *Kelly Brown Track T '27 Ford* roadster balances deft modernizing and original craftsmanship. Nothing embodies the team's reverence for the vehicle's soul quite like its superbly rich, yet understated color, a custom PPG maroon. "We wanted something that fit that era and style of the car. The car wouldn't work with a candy apple red," laughs Hollenbeck.

Not only are they making history at Vintage Color Studio, they're restoring it as well. Hollenbeck has revitalized a number of hot rod icons, such as the Sam Barris '49 Merc. His approach is always to leave the essential character of the build intact. "People ask why I didn't paint under the hood. That's just not the way it

was." He also restored the *Ala Kart*, a two-time winner of *America's Most Beautiful Roadster*.

Epitomizing the "less is more" show car style, Hollenbeck loves to cut loose when he can. His work on Norm and Kim Ricardo's 1956 Ranch Wagon, featured in this issue's *Tech Talk*, is an exuberant use of geometric design, sizzling color and West Coast funk. Another prime example is *Iron Orchid*, designed and sprayed on the fly in just nine days.

Like many of his peers, Hollenbeck likes to experiment creatively, but doesn't take chances with his paint. That's why he has sprayed PPG for the last 25 years and now uses the ENVIROBASE® High Performance

paint system at Vintage Color Studio. "I really like the way the basecoat lays out. It makes the clear smoother," explains Hollenbeck. "There's no die back or shrinking up. The finished product is deeper, shinier, nicer than solvent."

When asked to reflect about his accomplishments, Darryl is not one to brag, attributing his success to the good fortune of pairing up with great customers and projects. Awards aren't what motivate him; it's always the work. "I still get butterflies when I go into the booth to paint," he relates. "That's the reason I keep going back. I love what I do."

**"I STILL GET BUTTERFLIES WHEN I GO INTO THE BOOTH TO PAINT, THAT'S THE REASON I KEEP GOING BACK. I LOVE WHAT I DO."**

**"WE WANTED SOMETHING THAT FIT THAT ERA AND STYLE OF THE CAR. THE CAR WOULDN'T WORK WITH A CANDY APPLE RED."**



Photo courtesy of The Rodder's Journal.