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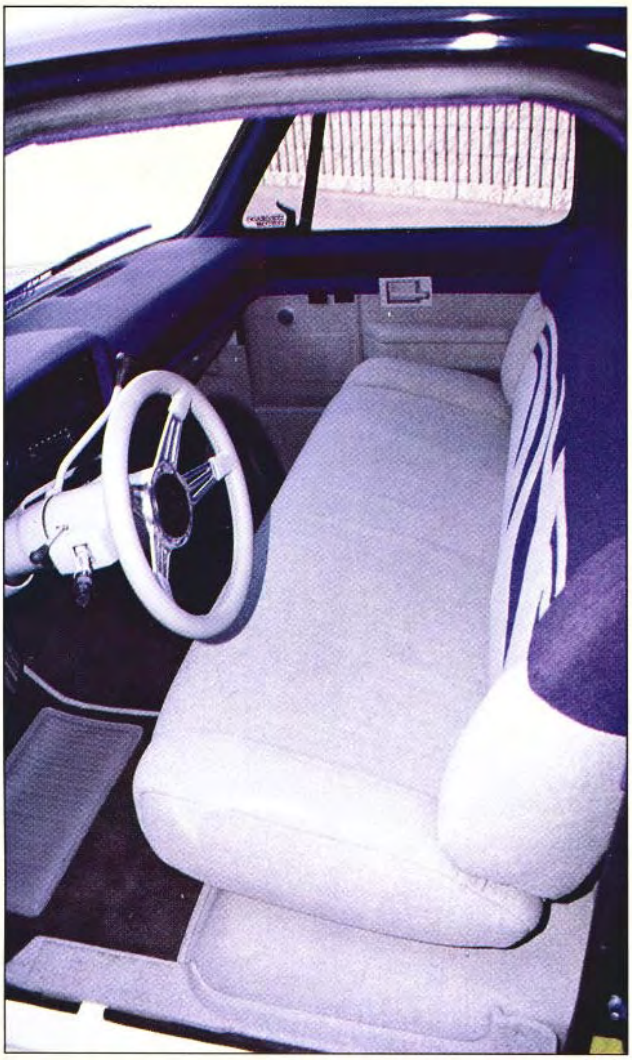

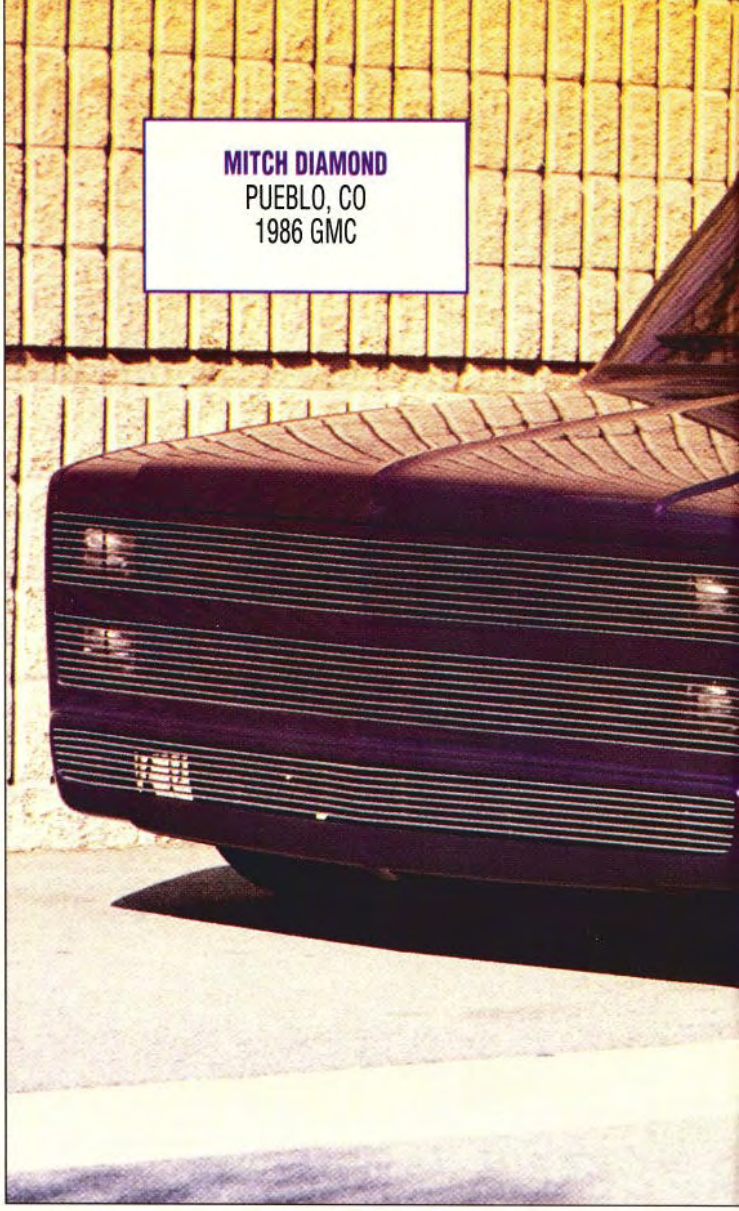

HEAVY METAL

An exercise in creative metalwork

BY BRIAN McCORMICK
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

When you are trying to reach a specific niche within the custom truck scene, sometimes you have to entice them with something they can relate to. For instance, Mitch Diamond is a metalcrafter from Pueblo, Colorado who offers stylish, aerodynamic body cladding packages for late-model trucks, and is expanding his line of products to include the '70s and '80s Chevy trucks. To get his impressions out to the market, Mitch decided to use his '86 GMC sculpturing platform for custom advertising by treating the truck to not only the aerodynamic and cosmetic refinements he plans to offer in the future, but a complete custom package that enthusiasts can relate to.

The GMC is as sporty as they come and really awakens interest in this forgotten body style. Being a fabricator, Mitch focused on giving the truck aerodynamic character by designing and forming all the changes from sheetmetal. Looking closely we discover such changes as molded lower side skirts that wrap onto the fenderwell openings, rear fender opening

flares, and a front roll pan cut out and fit with an aluminum insert to match the phantom inserts installed in the grille.

The rear has been treated to shaved taillights and a flattened tailgate that flows downward to a unique molded roll pan featuring Fiero taillights. A brief exaggeration of a bed wing has been sculpted and molded onto the tailgate lip and bed ends, with an aluminum tonneau cover, shaved door handles and emblems continuing the smooth appearance.

When all of the changes were complete, Mitch then layered the '86 with PPG Purple Pearl with the lower half of the body sprayed off-white fading upwards to lemon-lime color graphic stripes.

To further enhance the looks of the '86, Mitch used Chassis Tech dropped spindles and lowered coil springs to slam the front end, while the rear is equipped with Chassis Tech lowered leaf packs and a custom frame notch. To further accent the sporty appearance, Mitch installed 17x8 and 17x11-inch Colorado Custom wheels with 235/40-and 315/35-series BFGoodrich rubber, a combination that fits the lines of the styling package perfectly.

Diamond's efforts continued into the interior which now sports a lavish display of gray and purple tweed sewn to match the exterior paint scheme. Eddie Potestio applied the material to not only the seat, but the custom-made door panels and dash as well.

Finally, to power the GMC, a '71 small-block 350 engine has been rebuilt with moderate performance enhancements, some of which include a Comp Cams bumpstick, Edelbrock intake and carb, Hooker headers and a Turbo exhaust system.

Seeing is believing. Diamond Aerosports has reinstalled the notion that trucks of this body style can look really trick when blessed with the right products, many of which will be available through both Diamond Aerosports and AIM Industries in the near future. **CHT**