

**HOT
HOW-TO:**

HEATER CORE FIX



Mustang

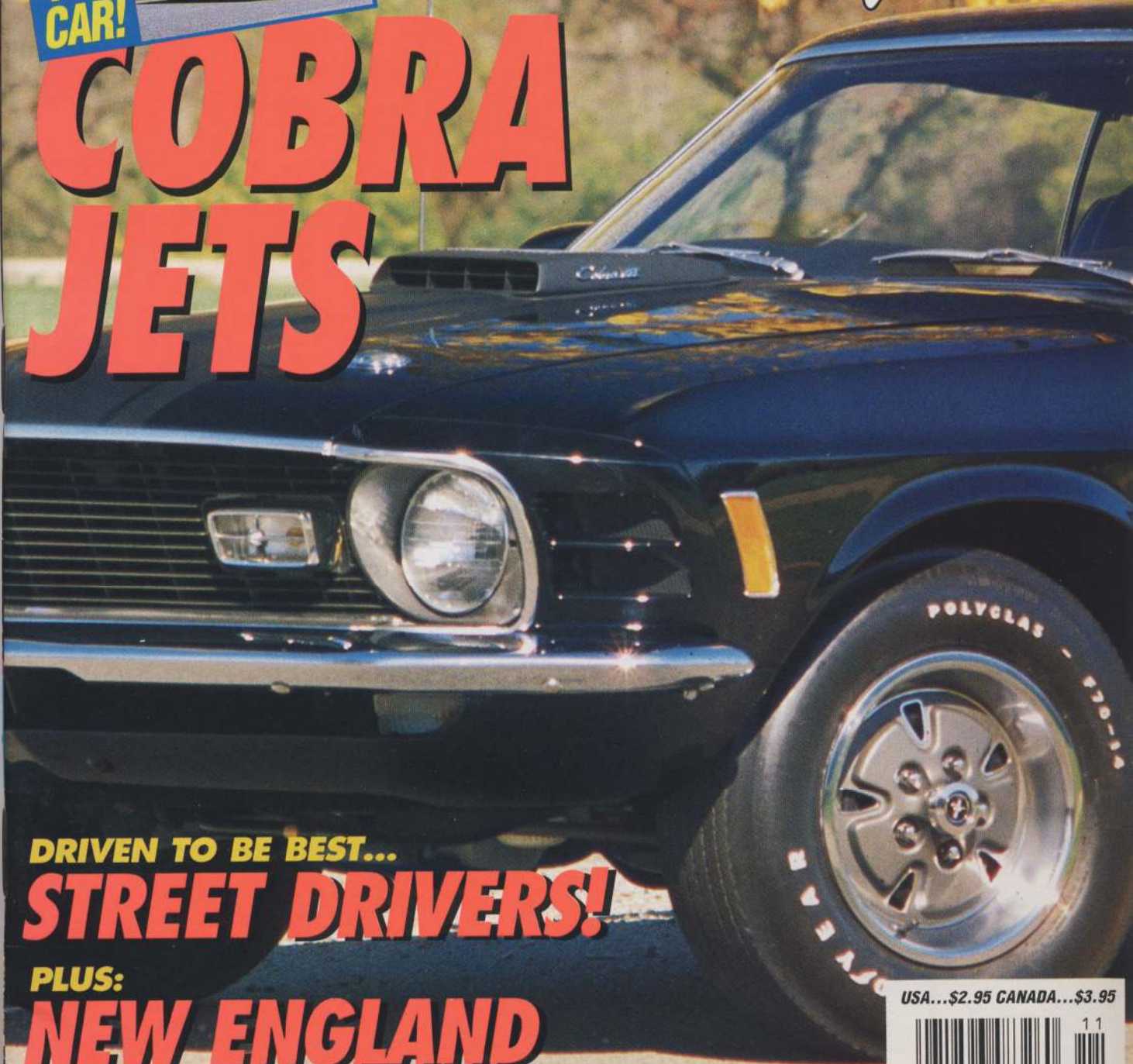
Monthly

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November
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COBRA JETS



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Muscle on Tap

Rick Parker draws the fire from his '70 Mach 1 Cobra Jet.

article by Rob Reaser photographs by Roy Query

Cobra Jet Mustangs were the epitome of American performance cars in 1969 and 1970. Geared towards the masses, the lean Mach 1s became truly unique when fitted with ferocious 428 cubic-inch engines. To complete the package it took a driver who appreciated good handling and could manage the raw horsepower of these strong Mustangs. It also required a driver who knew what he wanted and wasn't afraid to take it. When Rick Parker met with his '70 Mach 1 Cobra Jet, an agreement was forged between man and machine.

Rick bought this black Mach 1 in 1989 from a neighbor who had found the car 11

years earlier in Florida. The man had driven the Cobra Jet only a short time before engine trouble at 33,000 miles brought the CJ to a halt. He held onto the car throughout the '80s before deciding to sell the big-block Mustang. Area Ford fans heard the call but, luckily for Parker, did not respond. When Rick finally checked out the Mach 1 he discovered the Ram Air 428 CJ engine, four-speed toploader and the front sheetmetal already out of the chassis. The body and interior (with AM radio and fold-down rear seat options), were in place and in fine shape. Rick made his first offer in August and the Mustang was towed to his Columbus, Ohio, home in October.

Parker rebuilt the engine and managed to use few reproduction parts. The interior received minor detailing, and a special order black paint was added to the exterior. Six months after beginning the restoration, Rick was the envy of the Ford fanatics who had turned down the black Mach 1 the previous year.

Rick Parker doesn't hesitate to flaunt his acquisition. So far the '70 Mach 1 Cobra Jet has burned over 900 miles of central Ohio roadway. "It runs and drives great," Rick says, and the muscle is always there, just when he demands it.

