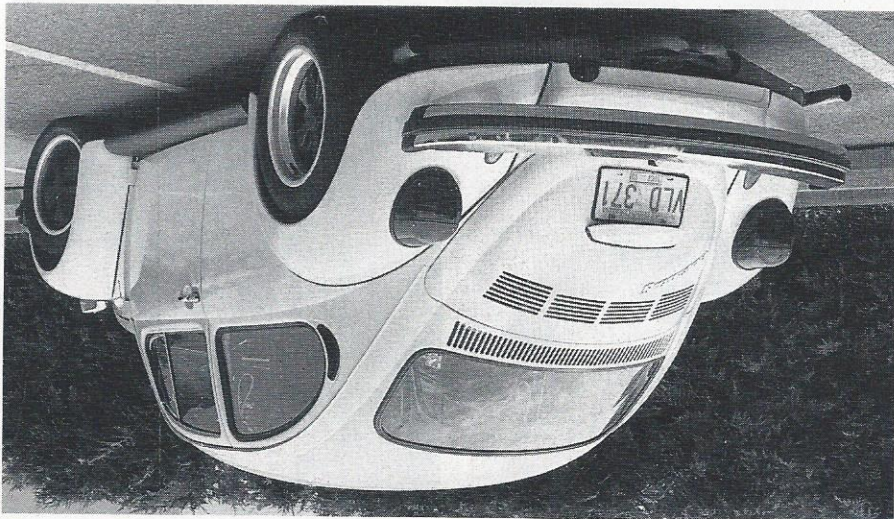


Narrowing IRS

Here's another way to narrow the rear track of a Bug



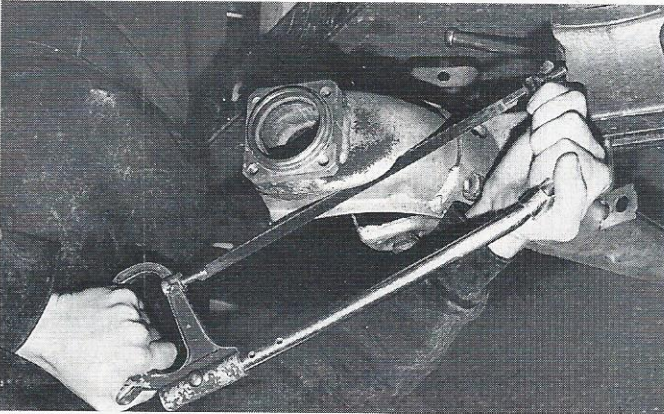
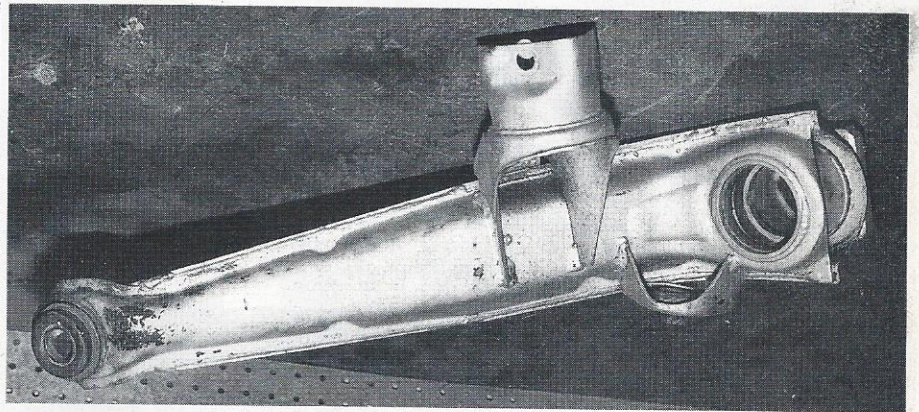
Back in the April, 1994 issue, we showed you how to narrow the rear track on a swingaxle rear suspension. In this technical feature, Ron Lummus cut both sides of the rear torsion housing and narrowed it 2-inches per side. Next, he cut both axle tubes down by 2-inches and installed a pair of custom-made shortened axles. The completed conversion allowed for 10-inch wide tires to fit under the rear stock fenders. While the result was probably the ultimate in achieving the Pro Street look, it was very involved and would only work on a swingaxle set up.

About the same time we were working on the feature with Ron Lummus, we were contacted by a Canadian reader named Bruce Twedde. Bruce and the guys at

ABOVE, this is a rear angle shot of Bruce Twedde's modified Bug. Other than both the front and rear suspensions being lowered, it's difficult to tell that anything special has been done to the rear end. Car features the 26mm narrowed IRS arms.

LEFT, here is a close up view of a stock

IRS arm that has been disassembled, cleaned, old paint removed and bearing surfaces free of any grease. This arm has been bead blasted clean. Working with a bare metal arm is a much easier task.



ABOVE LEFT, begin by grinding away the factory welds that attach the bearing housing to the trailing arm. ABOVE, cut away the sheet metal on the outside of the trailing arm with a hack saw. Be careful not to cut through the bearing surface! LEFT, remove all the metal flashing from the bearing housing and bead blast the outside surface.



California Import Parts, 7029 MacPherson Ave., Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5J 4N4, (604) 432-9802, came up with a way to narrow IRS arms that would allow larger tires and wheels to fit under the stock fenders. In this method, the stock torsion housing was left intact, and both IRS arms were modified. The shortened axles used in this conversion were a pair of stock VW Type 3 automatic (left side only) which are