

Preparing for and Presenting on the Concours Field

Concours Field Rules and Etiquette

There is a set of rules that applies to almost any reasonable concours you might attend:

- Do not disturb your neighbors. Examples are too much talking and bothering them with either questions or chatter before judging.
- Do not ask for anything. You should have brought it yourself.
- Keep your car far enough away so as to not encroach on the neighboring vehicle. Usually this is a door width. I drove off of a concours field once when the parking was not being handled properly. These cars are too valuable to be damaged by the uncaring. You do have reasonable rights.
- Do not bother the judges after they finish with your car. They are held to a very difficult schedule. Approach them **after** the judging is completed. Believe me, they are interested in talking to you. If they do not respond to contestants, they won't be a judge for long. Most of them have been long-term judges and even longer term contestants. The lower competition levels will often have judges in training.
- If you feel that YOU and YOU only have been misjudged, go to the Protest Committee on the field or to the Head Judge if there is no Protest Group. Most fields will provide you with procedures for filing a protest.
- Do not give the judges information about a competitor or something on your car that is not right that you think you have an excuse for. **It does not matter.** It will be judged to the best ability of the judge and his fellow judges if there is a question about authenticity, etc.
- NO aerosol cans on the field at any time. People have been sued for over-spraying a competitor's car, either accidentally or on purpose. You will be thrown off a concours field for such actions and may be banned.
- When asked, keep your descriptions about your car to a minute or less. Bring up only two or three high points. If not asked, it may be to your advantage to keep your mouth shut. I have seen owners set themselves up with an innocent comment.
- When the 'Stop for judging' announcement is made, STOP ALL WORK on your car. The ONLY thing you can do after that announcement is to lightly dust with a feather duster or a small clean towel. This means that you are not to do ANYTHING with your car! If a judge sees you, you are disqualified. Period.
- After the judging, have fun, lunch, talk to your neighbors, the judges, friends and strangers who stop by to look at your car. This is the FUN time at the concours. People are interested in your car. Remember, yours looks a lot better than those they see on the street most of the time. Remember to check the judging results in case a protest is needed. Time is limited to register a protest. Enjoy the trophy time, whether you win or not. You have the satisfaction of knowing that the work you put into the car will make it look good to others and it puts people on notice that you are serious about your PORSCHE!

Organizing your tasks for Concours

- DO ALL OF YOUR WORK AT HOME! That leaves you with less to do at the concours, more time for fun, and you will have better results. Last minute total cleanings are a joke on you.
- ORGANIZE YOUR TIME ON THE FIELD! The hardest part of last minute work on the field always seems to be brightening the paint, tire prep, glass, engine touchup, and cleaning the interior for the damage caused just to get onto the field. If you are entering as a pair, then one should do the inside and the quick liquid on the outside. The other does the tires, engine, and starts the glass. Both will work to finish up the glass. The more experienced person will inspect the car and both will tackle any items found. If you are displaying alone and the other spouse, girlfriend, etc. lets you do it all, then you have to do the interior glass for sure my way. Use mats on the driver's side to handle the dirt of driving. Be sure the engine is perfect before you enter the field. Work on the tires, interior including storage arrangement, then the exterior. You may or may not have time to get to the engine. You should be complete before arriving or you may not finish before time is called.

What to take onto a Concours Field

I have listed below the maximum items I carry onto a Concours Field.

If your car has been well prepared before you go onto the field you can get by with a minimum set of supplies (Marked in this list with a "√").

Being ahead of the game saves both time on the field and limits what you need to take to the field. No one says that you cannot get up early or go to bed late to get ahead on the last touchup to some areas of the car.

Containers:

Hard open carrier like maids carry for chemicals and a duffel for cloths, etc.
or

√ Soft-sided frameless duffel of a good size with pockets for chemicals, etc.

√ Two paper grocery bags for all trash and used items on the field (all residue goes in it, including cloths)

Chemicals:

Spritzer bottle with water (fresh each time).

- can be drinkable in an emergency.
- bottled water preferred.

√ Griot's Speed Shine or Meguiar's Final Inspection or Quik Detailer

- Takes off finger prints and droppings.
- Provides a 7-hour shine over all waxes and fluids

Prep-Sol (Dupont) in small sealed jar or 3M Adhesive Cleaner.

- Cleans all organics off the car when needed.
- Doesn't harm paint.

Bottled wax or polish of your choice

- whenever Prep-Sol is used, you need to refinish the area
- if no time to wax, use Final Inspection or Speed Shine which will cover for 7 hours

√ Tire Dressing - Meguiar's or Griot's or a German Product Einzsett Trefenpfleger

- Touch up after cleaning tires of dirt only.
- Wipe dry if pressed for time.
- Do early on field so it has time to dry.

Orange type Detergent concentrate diluted 1/32 with water

- Wurth is best, but there are others.
- Use to clean grease or paint surface grease where you do not want to use Prep-Sol.
- Use on paint or other non-cloth items where it is hard to get clean with just water.
- √ Plastic/Rubber Cleaner - Meguair's 40 or Griot's or Eomsett's Vinyl and Rubber Dressing.
 - All edges of mats, pedals, rubber surfaces, interior and exterior except tires.
 - Wipe off when dry.
 - Do before cleaning the windows.
- Car Wash Concentrate - Tiny bottle for spotting only using water spritzer
 - Use for hard to reach places for dirt.

√ Sunscreen for me!

√ Nitril Gloves - 4-6

Sample size bottle of 3M hand glaze (use only if you have to wax over)

√ Window Cleaner called Glass and Surface Cleaner for degreasing

- use on windows with films

White Vinegar diluted 1/32 with water in spritzer bottle

- Clean windows with regular cleaner and then dry with paper towels or newspaper.
- Then brighten the windows even more using the vinegar solution, being sure to protect any surfaces below.
- Spray cans can be used off-field before the event, but use the above method on the field.

Metal Polish – Use what you want. I use Autosol or Wenol (Simichrome takes too long).

- Use metal polish only if Final Inspection or Speed Shine will not do the job.

Dry Goods:

√ Cotton swabs

- NO plastic sticks – use only paper or wood.
- √ double-ended 3" wood or paper sticks.
- 6" wood sticks.
- 12-14" stick with cotton swab on end to clean out under pulley area

Brushes

- All boar or natural bristles, round with 1 1/2" brush.
- Solder brush with bristles taped at less than 1/2" for engine and metal surfaces.

Sharpie Pen Marker Permanent Black with two ends, broad and very fine

- Use for scratches on black areas. (I do not use these, however it is in most competitors' boxes).

√ Screwdrivers #1 & #2 Flat Blade and Phillips.

√ Duster - small is better. Performance Products has one or, if you insist, the CA one

Tire gauge, if one is not supposed to be in car's tool kit.

Note: I have won a concours and lost a concours due to tire pressures.

In the case of a tied score between cars, this is one of the tie-breaker items.

- Set to the specifications in the manual!

√ Small scissors or small pocket knife for cutting thread or rag cloths on field.

√ Steel wool or 3M rough cloth (preferred).

- Used mostly for getting rust off of metal parts in lower places

√ Lint Roller in Zip Lock Bag.

√ Soft bristle toothbrush – often used for getting wax out of tight places

√ Small flashlight.

Toweling:

√ Minimum Carry On is with half of cotton items.

-Pack in separate bag or large integrated bag

-All Cotton Only

- √ 1/2 roll each of paper toweling and the blue shop towels (can be in hard carrier)

- Use paper for windows

- Use blue for engines, suspensions, other drive train metal problems

- √ Shop cotton towels – 4-5 each

- √ Face Cloths – 4-5 – for final Inspection/Speed Shine, paint surface work, etc.

√ Hand Towels – 5-6 - use full size towels, without monograms or metal

- used for wiping off Speed Shine, vinyl & rubber, and small waxing areas

√ Bath Towels – 4-5, (not bath sheet size)

- Drying off from rain and drying off washing of car. (May need more in rain)

- I used 20 in the '95 Portland Parade, 16 in the '96 Oklahoma Parade

- Rained three times before judging--lost at Portland, won Division at OK

√ Pieces of cotton T-shirt - 10-12 pieces each averaging 36-40 Sq in. plus some smaller

Mylar - 4mm type cut to cover car top and sides down below beltline

- store it ROLLED not folded

- Last time in CA it took four bath towels and the mylar for 2 rains

Ponchos – 2 plastic fold-up raincoats or 2 large trash bags with eyeholes already cut

√ Diapers – 4 – primarily to wipe down softly for dust or for second round on wax

Car Storage, Interior, and Glove Box:

You are being judged on what is supposed to be in the car. You should take all the following items, but those marked with a * should NOT be in the car at judging time.

Jack – If you have the original jack for the car, it should be cleaned and displayed with the car.

Any other jack* should not be in the car at judging time.

Tip: Use a 12 gauge shotgun cleaning kit for the inside barrel of older jacks.

Porsche Tool Kit only – should be cleaned up and as correct as money allows(contact me for alternatives).

First Aid Kit* - if driving to Parade. Get a real kit* or make one! (not the 4-bandage type)

Owner's Manual, radio manual, anything that came with the car in storage or glove box.

Fire Extinguisher – Halide or Halitron type 2-3#.

- Place behind front right wheel so people do not tend to steal it or fall over it.

- Many concours' insurance require it and some states (such as CA) do, as well.

- And you need it. It is cheap vs. car replacement.

Flares*, triangle*, or red warning lights*.

12 volt Vacuum* – hand held.

Rest of car should not have*

Car Pockets/glove box, Storage, under seats, on rear seats with backs down should not have: Electronic Chargers*, iPhones*, Including Internet or iPad/iPhone cables*, glasses cases*, glasses*, ice chains*, ice/snow brushes*, oil cans*, old rags*, cosmetics*, sun protectants*, old bills*, little black books*, girley magazines*, female/male attire*, etc.

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