



CHRIS KIMBALL, UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA

## 1972 DeTomaso Pantera

IT'S NOT A TOY, IT'S AN INVESTMENT

In Greek mythology, Pandora's Box is the jar carried by Pandora that, once opened, unleashed all the evils of the world on mankind. At the very bottom, however, it also contained hope. So, what does this have to do with a 1972 pre-L Pantera? Well, I'd always wanted one, and in December 2006, I found it on eBay.

I flew to Connecticut, saw the car, fell in love and shipped it home. As a new member of Panteras Northwest, I was relieved to have my fellow club members around to help me figure out what needed to be done to the car. Quite a bit, as it turned out.

In early 2009, I bought a new engine — a Cleveland bored and stroked to 408 cubic inches. While the engine was out, I had the frame inspected, which revealed damage at the rear — the shock towers were collapsing into the engine bay. I had that expertly fixed, then sent the car on to have the new engine installed. Unfortunately,



Chris' Pantera cuts a mean profile. So good, in fact, that Microsoft featured it in the *Forza Motorsport 3* video game for Xbox. And now that all of its evils have been addressed, it's a terrific driver.

the mechanic who rebuilt the engine also did quite a bit of body damage.

The guys at my local body shop were horrified at how badly the car had been defiled. It took some time, but they got it right. The paint work was absolutely beautiful and the car — now appropriately named *Pandora* — finally ran great.

I've since driven it to and from Arizona twice for the Pantera Owner's Club of America's annual Fun Rally, and this year I drove it to the Fun Rally in San Diego. My *Pandora* is full of hope.



VALUE RANGE:  
\$44,500–\$79,000

