

1949 ICON EV Mercury Coupe

Special Elements:

As with all ICON projects, this 1949 Mercury Coupe Derelict is all about pushing the limits and challenging status quo. Why are all production EV vehicles devoid of heart and soul? Why is the aftermarket EV conversion so slow to evolve, and provide comprehensive systems and solutions? Why can't you have the best of both worlds; the style and quality of a vintage vehicle with modern performance and functionality? We say you can have your cake and eat it too!

As part of the Derelict line, our focus was to celebrate and preserve the original patina and exterior trim on the car. One family owned it up to our purchase, and it has been in SoCal since new. We forensically disassembled the body, replaced all rubber, added insulation and sound deadening products everywhere, then reassembled it in a manner that tried to make it look like we did nothing. A robust 4-wheel-independent chassis was developed with Art Morrison Enterprises. Our brake partners at Brembo provided the whoa to match the go. As this was commissioned by a repeat client, he had the faith in us to let us push the limits, and we did just that.

The dual electric motor, transmission-less design provides freight train torque, with no shifts all the way up to 120MPH. A full Tesla Performance 85kWh battery array is fit throughout the vehicle for exceptional weight balance. Capable of an estimated 150-200 mile range, and 1.5 hour full recharge capability (thanks to the CHAdeMO 125A fast charger) from 0 to full. A pioneering EV system management system protects you from overcharge, provided thermal management for the batteries, and a host of capabilities and protections.

ICON had a bit of fun with the engine bay. Since the electric motors fit where the old transmission once resided, we thought it would be fun to reference vintage V8 speed equipment with the "engine". It actually houses the battery controllers and a few of the Tesla modules, but it is designed in a traditional V8 array, in polished and media blasted aluminum for a more visceral, "old-school" look. Then we had custom cloth braided sheathing made for the wires under the hood, referencing the original wiring loom.

In the interior, we wanted to keep it vintage appropriate and light, so we worked with Knoll Textiles, and Moore & Giles leathers to find the exact design we had envisioned. Power windows operate via the original analog window cranks, and if you tap twice on the driver's side, you can drop or raise all windows at once. While all gauges are all within a modern digital Andromeda unit, the design strongly references the original analog units (down to the typeface and background). Other significantly redesigned elements include in-dash A/C vents (not to mention electric A/C), and all custom switches and bezels inspired by the originals but supporting modern components and functions.

1949 ICON EV Mercury Coupe

Basic Specifications:

- Dual AM Racing Permanent Magnet Motor (AMR) 320NM each (235 ft lb). 150KW each (200HP). Total: 470 ft lb, 400HP
- Dual Rinehart Motion Systems 150KW Motor Controllers
- Full Tesla Performance 85kWh battery pack. 96 cells in series. 400v, 225 ah capacity
- Battery management system (BMS) with integrated drivetrain current limiting
- CHAdeMO 125A fast charger (recharge to 90% in 1.5 hours from empty) front bumper mounted behind license plate
- SAE J1722 "J plug" charger located under original fuel door
- 4-way battery thermal management system. Radiator, bypass, Air-conditioned heat exchanger cooler, battery heater
- Dual 5KW Chargers (recharge time from empty is 9 hours)
- Andromeda Interfaces Display styled with vintage graphics
- 7:1 direct drive axle with limited slip differential. 120 mph top speed
- Estimated 150-200 mile range
- 2.2kw bidirectional DC/DC converter
- Cabin Air conditioning and heating
- Custom Art Morrison four-wheel independent suspension chassis, hydro-electric assist to Flaming River power rack & pinion steering, Dana 60 nodular rear end
- Custom interior with Moore & Giles leather, Knoll textiles, wool headliner and windlace
- All custom dash switches, knobs and A/C vents
- Extensive soundproofing, poly-urea coated body floors and underside
- All new glass and weather stripping
- ICON design dual power windows, controllable from driver's door
- ICON 18" forged aluminum wheels