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NEWS

CLASSIC CARS

Florida garage tackles restoration of one-of-six-left 1929 Peerless classic

By Nicholas Maronese | April 8th 2016



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Extensive work performed by Creative Workshop chronicled on Discovery's *Daily Planet* during "Treasure Seekers" week

A Florida-based garage has just completed the restoration of one of the rarest full classics in the hobby, a 1929 Peerless Model 8-125, one of just six remaining.

Jason Wenig's Creative Workshop in Dania Beach – which restores cars of all marques, and even tackles coachbuilt commissions – took the car from neglected and well-worn to like-new concours condition, scratchbuilding many of the car's hard-to-find components along the way.

Owner Dan Johnson picked up the 1929 Peerless to satisfy his particular lifelong affinity for the car, inspired by his mother's stories of riding around in a relative's Peerless when she was young.

Cleveland-based Peerless originally built clothes-wringers, then bicycles, and moved on to cars in 1900. The company pioneered the front-mounted vertically-positioned-motor rear-wheel-drive vehicle layout in 1902, and also built America's first standard closed cars, in 1903.

In 1925, it began fitting its cars with six- and eight-cylinder engines from contractor Continental; Johnson's car, for example, is powered by a 114-hp 5.2-litre Continental. Wenig estimates Peerless built no more than 20 or 30 Model 8-125 sedans in 1929, and that Johnson's is one of just six still known to exist.

Creative Workshop's restoration of the car will be chronicled on Discovery's *Daily Planet* on April 11, as part of its 'Treasure Seekers' week. The program airs 7pm EST.

