

Passat *Perfection*

Text by Giancarlo Pawelec // Photos by Alison Merion

Turning an obsession into a profession is a dream few enthusiasts get to enjoy. Having been a true audio buff for years, Fred Lynch says it all began when he spent countless hours tinkering with car audio throughout high school. Soon after, Lynch attended the Installer Institute in Long Beach, CA, where his passion as an audiophile grew.

While working at Traffic Jamz, Lynch, of Modesto, CA, gained immense experience and a reputation by building projects for the likes of Mack10, Jay-Z and Meguair's. In 2004, Lynch began working for Arc Audio, heading up the Marketing and Advertising department and since then he's never looked back.

With his new position at Arc Audio and a full arsenal of products at his disposal, it sure didn't take long for him to transform his once stock 2000 VW Passat. As an active member of Club B5 (B5 being the Passat's chassis code), the responsibility was on Lynch to prove this VW's potential. The first step in the overhaul was to bore the turbocharged 1.8-litre, 170hp, 4-cylinder motor to a full 2.0 litres and bolt on an RS Akimoto cold air intake system. Lynch soon craved even more power and he certainly found it in the form of APR's Stage III turbo upgrade, plus a Nitrous Works four-fogger, 100-shot nitrous oxide kit. Keeping temperatures low is a menacing front-mount Spearco intercooler mated to a Cry02 dual 5-inch ring spray kit. On the hot side, a custom PAE dual exhaust expels waste.

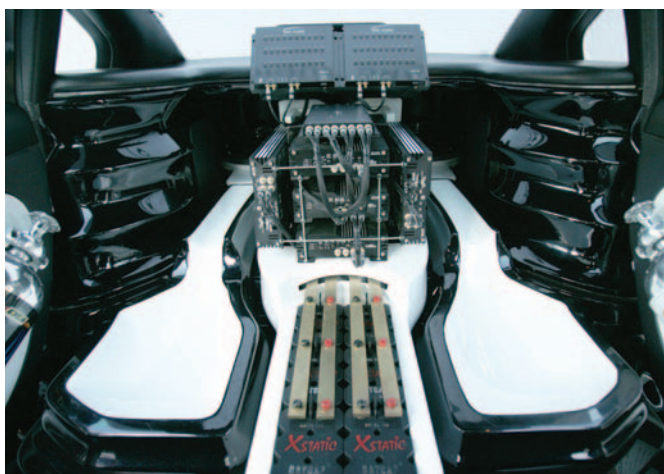
The setup is said to produce just over 300hp to the wheels without the nitrous flowing.

To help secure proper launches, Lynch installed a Sachs Stage II sport clutch assembly, while a Quaife limited-slip differential keeps the wheels pacing. A set of Drag Line composite lightweight drive axles and a Neuspeed short throw shift kit ensure the added power runs smoothly.

On the outside, Lynch spared no expense, selecting the Type RS full aero kit from Extreme Dimensions, which was specifically designed and fitted for this project car. A Carbon Creations OEM-style carbon fibre hood was partially painted in the vehicle's body colour. The facelift comes courtesy of a Kamei Euro Sport grill, Neuspeed clear corners and Hella gas projection headlights. Detail changes include a Billet Balls radio antenna and a dark Johnson Laminating UL40 window tint.

Sitting on a set of 19-inch Axis Speed Six rims wrapped in thick 235/35 Toyo Proxes 4 rubber, Lynch can rest assured his burn-outs will not go unnoticed. Suspension components consist of Koni Street Sport coil-overs with adjustable shocks, Neuspeed front and rear solid-core sway bars and finally, Drag Line suspension and drive-line bearings.





Stopping power is thanks to more goodies from APR. Lynch chose the Stage III big brake kit upgrade consisting of 13.1-inch slotted rotors with four-piston callipers using carbon pads. The rear callipers remain stock although the rotors were replaced with a matching front set from APR. A Lynd Racing high-performance master cylinder ensures proper fluid pressure when this German tuner comes to a halt.

The interior of this Passat is clearly custom. Lynch had the entire dash built for sound stage and video demos. Built with a combination of Baltic Birch frame work and Select Products Mold Fabric, the entire dash and center console were replaced. The fabricated piece houses an array of AutoMeter Proline gauges and sensors.

Also encased in the one-off dash are an Eclipse CD 8454 head unit and DV3101 DVD player blended into the moulded deck mount. Providing total system control is Arc Audio's DXE signal processor and two MEQ-30 30-band equalizers. The main controls of the DXE were installed into a custom piece made of ABS Plastic and fibreglass forming an overhead switch pod. Video switching controls are thanks to an Accele Electronics wireless network located in a pod display under the passenger seat.

For sound production, Lynch's choice came from DYN Audio's catalogue including four MW160 6.5-inch drivers for the mid-bass, two MW160GT 6.5-inch drivers for the mid-range and four MD100 tweeters for the highs. Bass levels come via a pair of Arc Audio ARC15 15-inch dual voice coil subwoofers. All interior panels were removed during the build and panels made of 3/4-inch Baltic Birch were inlayed into the floor openings and bonded to the factory body using 20lb two part expandable foam and then topped with multiple layers of Dynamat Extreme and one layer of Dynamat TacMat. Dynaliner and Dynasorb pads were placed behind and in front of all speaker- and subwoofer-mounting locations.



The fabricated amp rack consists of various Arc Audio components including two XXK2500 amps to juice the mid-bass drivers in the doors, a single XXK4150 Bridged mono for the mids in the kick panels, another single XXK4150 for the tweeters and two modified XXK2500s bridged to deliver 1,500 watts to the subwoofers in the trunk. All wiring is thanks to Monter Cable M-series and Cat5 cables – some of it going across the ceiling – while grounding is thanks to Power Flex 1 / 0- and 4-gauge wire.

For extra support and his own comfort, Lynch topped off the interior with a pair of Corbeau racing buckets and wrapped the unpainted interior bits of the car in Ultra Leather and Ultra Suede.

Electrical power is produced by a 250amp Dave's DC Electric alternator with external rectifier and regulator. Four Batcap 800-series batteries take up space in the stock location with another, six in the rear bumper assembly, six Batcap 400-series in the amp rack display and four more are in the subwoofer enclosure. For when Lynch's ride is parked at an indoor show, a Cascade APS-90 power

supply assures him of no faults and a Clifford G5 Advantagaurd security system keeps the haters away.

After a long and tedious 18-month build, this '01 Passat will reign king amongst its rivals. Great lengths and even greater alliances were made during the process, but none of this would be possible without the faithful sponsors. Big thanks to Demitrios, Robyn, Chad, Brad and the rest of the team at Arc Audio. Help with the installation is thanks to Matt Bordardt and Jeremy Mullins while the following companies also deserve great distinctions: Arc Audio, Select Products, Extreme Dimensions, Carbon Creations, DEI, Dynamic Control, Monster Cable, Dave's DC Electric, Accele Electronics, Varad, Batcap, DYN Audio, Corbeau Seats, Auto Meter, All Jacked Up, Applied Coatings, Design Engineering, Nitrous Works, STE Engineering, Billet Balls, Stitchcraft, VW of America, APR, Tuning Dynamics, Spearco, Turbonetics, Koni Suspension, Neuspeed, House of Kolor, Toyo Tires, RS Akimoto, Autotech, AutoMeter, Sachs, Central Valley VW, Tuning Zubehor and Meguiar's. **PAS**