

TUNING IS FANATICISM

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Fanaticism is a belief or behavior involving uncritical zeal, particularly for an extreme religious or political cause or in some cases sports, or with an obsessive enthusiasm for a pastime or hobby. Philosopher George Santayana defines fanaticism as "redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim"; according to Winston Churchill, "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject". By either description the fanatic displays very strict standards and little tolerance for contrary ideas or opinions. In his book "Crazy Talk, Stupid Talk", Neil Postman states that "the key to all fanatical beliefs is that they are self-confirming....(some beliefs are) fanatical not because they are 'false', but because they are expressed in such a way that they can never be shown to be false." The behavior of a fan with overwhelming enthusiasm for a given subject is differentiated from the behavior of a fanatic by the fanatic's violation of prevailing social norms. Though the fan's behavior may be judged as odd or eccentric, it does not violate such norms. A fanatic differs from a crank, in that a crank is defined as a person who holds a position or opinion which is so far from the norm as to appear ludicrous and/or probably wrong, such as a belief in a Flat Earth. In contrast, the subject of the fanatic's obsession may be "normal", such as an interest in religion or politics, except that the scale of the person's involvement, devotion, or obsession with the activity or cause is abnormal or disproportionate.

Tuning is one of the forms of fanaticism. There is a group of young people who are crazy of a tuning. Rat-look is one type of tuning. Rat look cars may seem like a relatively new concept, but they're not. Spend a little time researching the scene online and you'll find out that hot rods from the 1920's onwards have often been styled as "rat rods". The survival bike scenes have also played as important a role, if not more so, as hot rodding. RAT stands for Recycled Automotive Transport, and is about keeping your vehicle on the road for as little as possible, often borrowing parts from other cars. When people describe "rat look" they often have their own concept of what it is to be a rat. This isn't a bad thing by any means; the scene is that versatile. The ways in which you can style and modify a vehicle to personalise it to your own taste are endless. To someone who is "rattin'" a car, it could mean simply attacking the paintwork with a sander, letting the panels generate a layer of rust, throwing stickers all over the windows and bonnet, and chopping springs. To another person, it could mean slamming the car properly with some top of the range coilovers on some immaculate Euro wheels with an insane camber, spraying the car in a simple but effective matt or satin colour along with a roof rack and a few thoughtfully customised accessories. Finally it could be a vehicle that has naturally evolved into a true old skool style rat over time, that has been kept on the road 'no matter what it takes' for as little cost as possible. However, styling is not the only side to a ratted vehicle. Unlike the older American way, if you delve deeper into the UK scene, you may notice a surprising twist. A fully ratted car can be in A1 class condition in terms of mechanical efficiency and outright power. So that "rusty" looking VW Beetle you see sitting in your local car park may actually be in better mechanical condition, have a better power to weight ratio and also a much more lairy engine sitting under its bonnet than its newer looking sporty cousin that wears a GTi badge with its immaculate paint work... Like we said, a unique and surprising twist! It's not as easy as just buying an old banger, though.

There are a lot of nice cars to rat out there, but you'll also find a lot of pre-ratted cars that simply have no style or impact, and are just an accident waiting to happen on the roads. Ratting – is crazy, it is related to fanaticism.