



Jake and Jeanette Tomlinson with editor, Amanda Taylor, in one of the many cars available in the showroom

Photos: Debby Roberts Photography

Touring in Style

on the *Cutting Edge* of Automotive Design

by *Amanda Taylor*

Jake Tomlinson not only puts his ideas down on paper, he transforms them into works of art and precision.

Owner of Jake Tomlinson and Company, a premium collision repair facility, Jake has combined his expertise in automotive design with his knowledge of the latest automotive technology. Almost twenty years ago, with a 1983 911 SC Targa as his test model, Jake sat at a drafting table and began a new design that would soon be recognized as a close rendition of the future cutting edge style of the new Porsche 911 Cabriolet. Turning his plans into reality, Jake, with his two sons, carefully cut and formed the body of the Targa into its new form. The end result being a 911 SCM Cabriolet (M-modified) like no other on the road!

From its very inception in the early eighties, Jake's objective was to "try to project a suitable rendition of a 911 for the nineties." The need to update a style that was originally formed in the late fifties and early sixties, needed to be addressed "without sacrificing the design integrity," explains Jake. And this is exactly what he did. European Car photo editor, Les Bidrawn, looked at the modified targa and thought Jake's new design was either a "new" or "factory concept"

car; and Excellence magazine editor, Tom Coleman, wanted to know how Jake "obtained a car eight months before its introduction" to the mass market.

Not only did Jake design and cast the front and rear bumpers, he also spent endless hours designing and building a new windshield frame to support a flush mount windshield, along with 117 hours in making a jig to design the customized canvas top. A sleek, recessed top when folded and a low windshield angle was the result, complementing the overall style. It is now clear that his design was timeless and has followed Porsche into the twenty-first century with a fresh line that captures the public's attention from every angle.

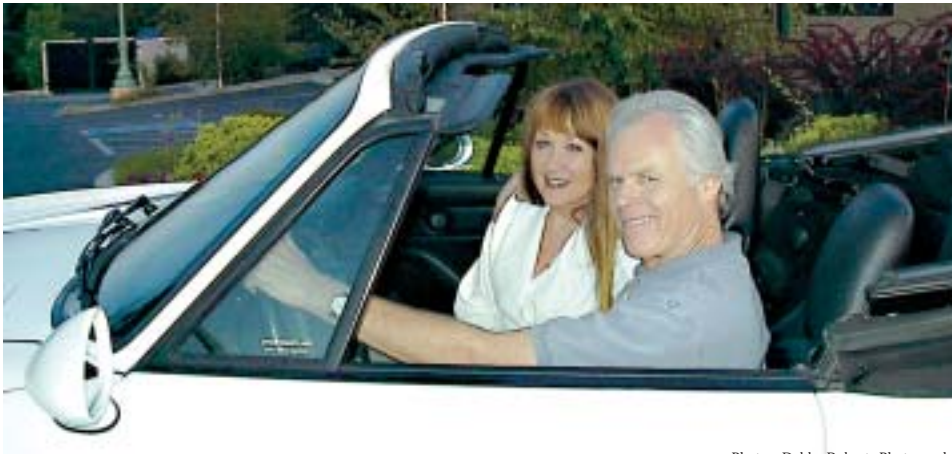
Jake Tomlinson continues to operate his automobile repair facility in Auburn, California, where he has been in business for over thirty years. Driving past the colorful landscaped entrance, complete with manicured lawn, the large parking area leads to a multi-level building including a reception area, inspection booth, frame aligning area, mixing room, paint booths, design studios and spotless showroom. The ▶ 9



After making the eventful trip to Europe to study the methods and work of automobile specialists, Jake and his wife, Jeanette, returned to implement what they had learned. In their premium automobile collision repair facility, in Auburn, California, innovation in European technology has arrived



Photo: Keith Sutter, Sutter Photography



Photos: Debby Roberts Photography

Jake Tomlinson and wife, Jeanette, in a 1995 Carrera Cabriolet Porsche near their design studio and shop in Auburn, California



On the showroom floor at Jake Tomlinson and Co.





Photo: Keith Suttler, Suttler Photography

Precision and detail are the critical elements in automobile collision repair and modification

Re-dimensioning (re-aligning) a damaged car on a frame alignment machine



Photo: Debby Roberts Photography

Passion, pride and dedication drive the Tomlinson team from start to finish

Putting the finishing touches on a newly-repaired red Mercedes SL500



Photo: Debby Roberts Photography

Jake Tomlinson and Company continues to be California's premium automotive collision repair shop. Since their recent expansion, owner and automotive body engineer, Jake Tomlinson, is now also featuring and selling a variety of European automobiles at affordable prices. When customers step onto Jake's spotless showroom floor, they see that only the best is available. From classics to newer models, the showroom looks more like a car show!

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appearance of the office structure alone, also designed by Jake, reflects the high standard of quality maintained on each car that comes into the shop.

After making a trip to Europe to study the methods and work of automobile specialists there, Jake and his wife, Jeanette, returned to California to implement the new, innovative ideas, including the use of European technology, Swedish equipment and Dutch-made paint. An authorized Glasurit center, Jake Tomlinson and Company is completely outfitted with the latest factory equipment to re-shape even the most damaged cars.

Jake has always had the desire to design and improve anything on wheels. Jake and the first modified Targa were the product of a near fatal accident, after which it was discovered that the redesigned, reinforced windshield frame had acted as a roll bar. Jake's own damaged car, the 911 SC Targa, was the beginning of his inspiration in automotive body design. His hard work and talent produced a modified Porsche that continues to turn heads.

Still ahead of his time, Jake and his designs continue to be recognized throughout the automotive world as second to none. Located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in Auburn, California, Jake and his team of technicians have brought the autobody collision center to the forefront of latest technology. His unique company continues to please a countless number of automobile enthusiasts.

Whether a customer is buying a quality used vehicle off the showroom floor or having a smash repair fixed, Jake Tomlinson and Company are first class in customer satisfaction. With quality workmanship, an experienced team of specialists and a new showroom now featuring the very best in European automobiles – including the modified 1983 911 SC Targa which is often on display (see front cover), Jake's hard work has proven to be an example of turning what could have been a disastrous accident into a great success!

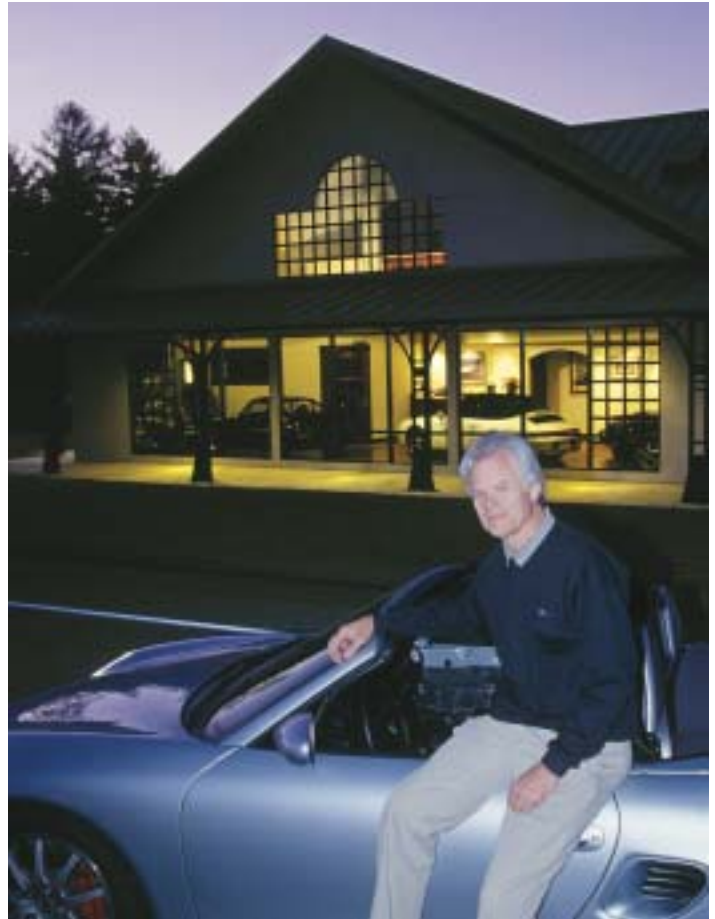


Photo: Keith Sutter, Sutter Photography

before



Jake was bitten by the car bug by the time he was 10 years old. He grew up in a small town in Northern Minnesota where his father owned the only car dealership. By the age of 12 he had his first car, and his obsession for change began. Moving to California in 1958 only intensified his desire to create. No car was safe with Jake as its owner. It was American Graffiti in full bloom.

and after

Touring California the right way begins with the right car . . .

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Photo: Keith Sutter, Sutter Photography