



Not your normal Craigslist purchase

words/photos Paul Allen

It was an impulse purchase.

Occasionally I search Craigslist for “Porsche” and see what pops up. Usually there are a few newer cars, maybe an old 914 or 944 or some old rusty parts, or some posters and scale models. But this time, an ad popped up for a “Porsche 962 nose.” Are you kidding me?



The photo from the Craigslist ad

The photo looked legit, so I contacted the guy. Turns out he used to make replacement parts for 962 racers, and over the years he had picked up some used parts when race teams were getting rid of their old stuff.

I thought it would look good in my garage, so after a bit of negotiation and his offer to deliver it, we had a deal. The photo made it look like the nose was in primer and pretty beat up, so my initial plan was to probably paint it in either the famous Rothman’s livery, or the bright red Coke livery from the Bob Akin 962 (originally owned by OVR member Mike Valentine).

After the nose arrived and I gave it a good cleaning, it really seemed in pretty good shape.

What’s more, there were hints about its past.

The nose has unusual brake cooling scoops, unlike any other 962 I’ve seen. The black band across the nose was painted on, and in just the right light, I could see faint evidence of some of the original lettering- large “Havoline” in the black bar, and smaller “MOTOR OIL” below that.

A few minutes with Google and I had the answer: this nose was used on the Bayside Racing #86 that finished 3rd at the 12 Hours of Sebring in 1989. Although the team used this livery several times and possibly on several cars, it looks like this nose with the unusual brake scoops was only used once. Clearly I had to return it to that historically-significant livery.



The car at the 12 Hours of Sebring in 1989

After a few hours of research, I designed new graphics in InDesign and Illustrator and dropped the files off at a sign shop to have vinyl cut. I also ordered some headlights and began thinking about how I might make the transparent headlight covers.



The new vinyl graphics ready for installation

I spent most of the July 4th weekend putting it all together. Rubbing compound and polish cleaned up the paint nicely, although there is still plenty of race patina. Then I applied the graphics, mounted the headlights, and fabricated the headlight covers with transparent plastic sheet from, where else, Amazon. I must say, it looks awesome.

It was a fun project, but on reflection it’s really too big for my tiny 20x28 3-car garage, so it will hopefully appear as a charity auction on Bring-a-Trailer.com in a month or two. Watch for it!



Even the headlight covers came out great