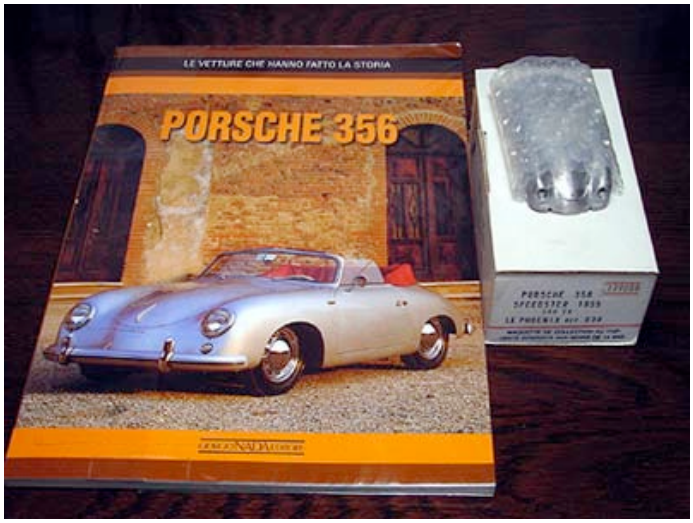
Porsche 356 Speedster

Akihiro Kamimura builds Le Phoenix's kit



I got an order from a customer in Italy to build this nice kit of 356 Speedster. He wants an ivory white body with read interior. Since I'm not an expert of Porsche, this reference book by "Giorgio Nada Editore" will be helpful.

Fortunately I got some exterior parts from Bosica's 356 coupe kit, such as wheels or headlight assy. I put them on Phoenix's body. They look so nice!

The wheel arch of the original kit looks bit too simple, so I'm going to modify it.

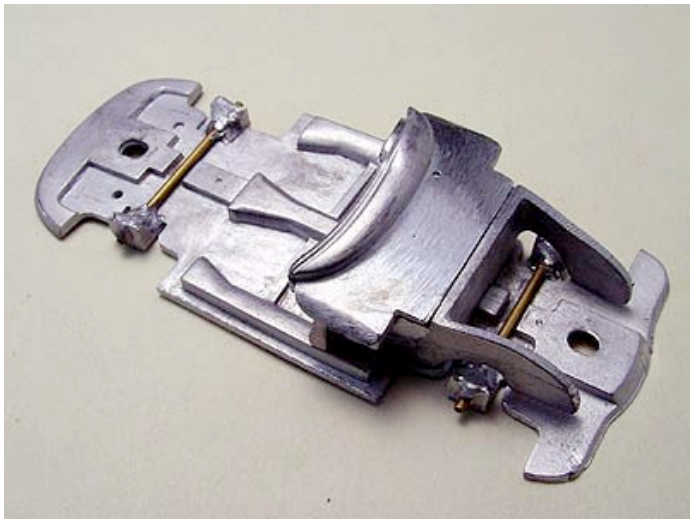
A generous amount of solder was added.

Then I removed the excess with a rough file.

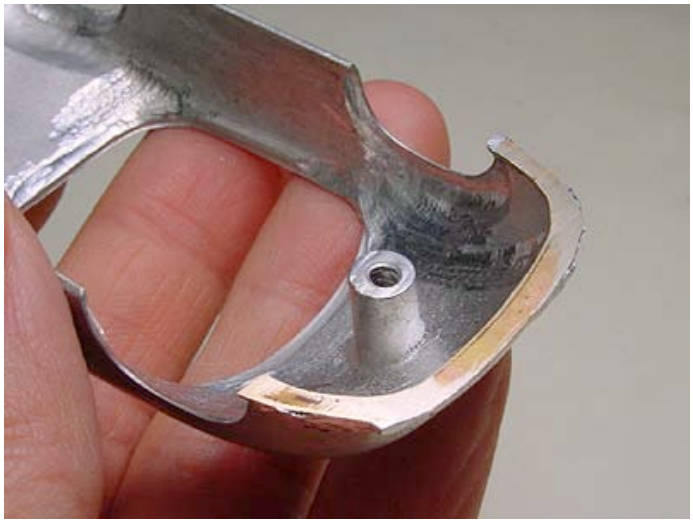
And trimmed the arch line with a rotary tool.

I hope you can see what I want.

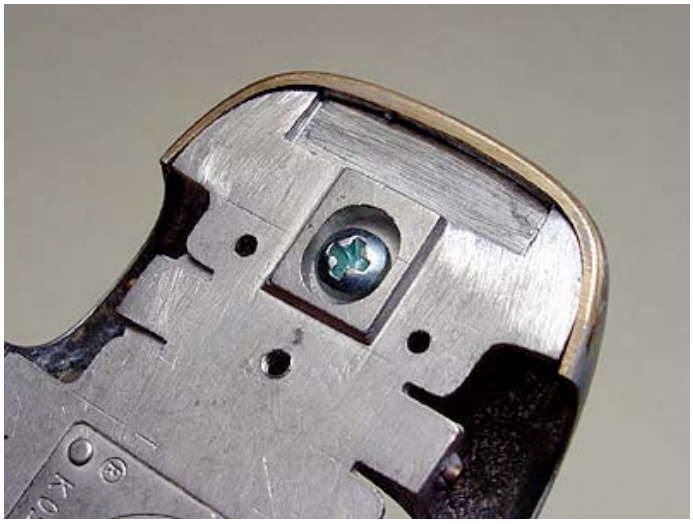
I prefer the look of the wheels without the hub caps, showing off the lug nuts.



The wheel shafts were soldered on the chassis securely. I need to remove the excess metal around the dashboard to fit the body shell.



I also removed lots of metal from the inside of the fenders so that the wheels can fit. A sheet of brass at the bottom of the tail will be added to give a clean look.



I soldered it to the body and then rounded the edge with a file.

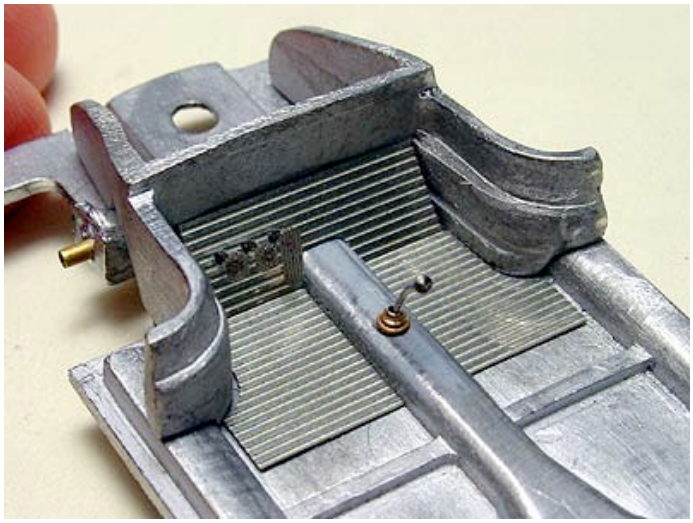
Most of these small parts, the taillights, the number plate lamp and the bumper guards came from Bosica kit. I'm dry fitting them.

After spraying gray primer, I tried to attach the headlight and the center ornament on the body. The recessed line around the bonnet seems to need more depth.

The waist trim consists of few pieces of nickel silver lines. I added thin legs to them for better fit.

The bumper trims have the legs, too.

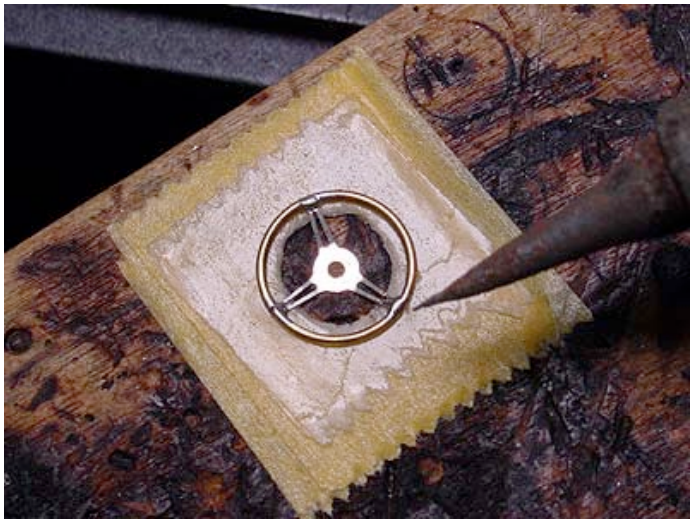
Well, the exterior part seems to be OK, let's go to the interior.



The A-B-C pedals and the floor mat are well made phot-etched parts. I only made the shift-boot by lathe.

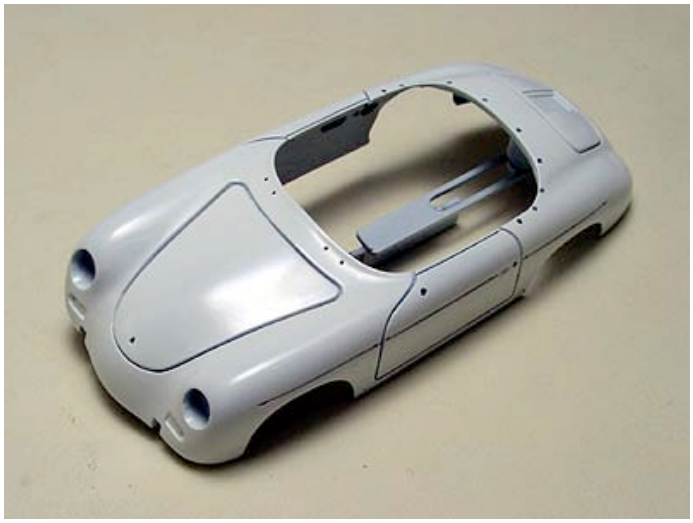
It's better to solder the instrument panel on the dashboard. It's quick and secure.

After sanding the weld and spraying primer, I made outer trims of the meters with thin brass rings.

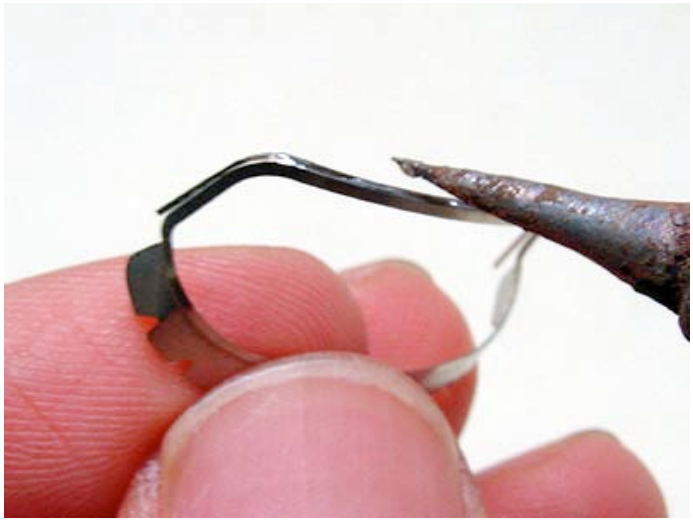


The brass ring technique is also useful for making the steering wheel. The diameter of the brass line is 0.7mm in this case.

The texture mold of the tonneau cover is excellent.I didn't have to do any extra work, except putting several pieces of brass tubes as the cover hooks.



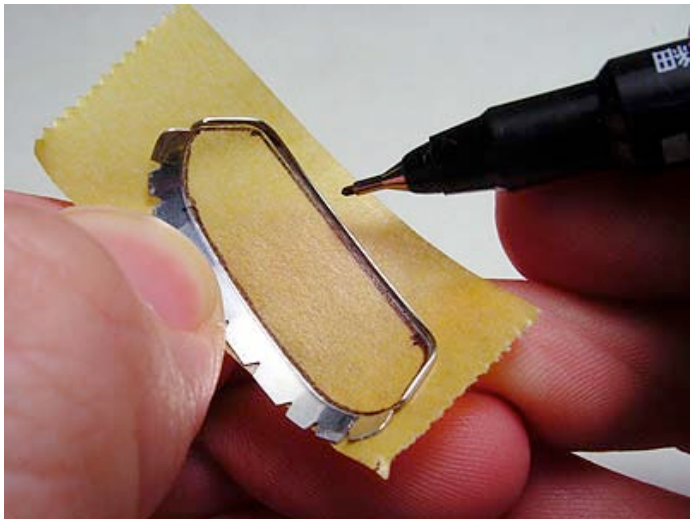
I sprayed base white several time on the primer. It will take about a week to harden, so I'm going to build the windshield.



The photo-etched frame seems nice but I think better to add more thickness. I backed the frame with a nickel silver line by solder.

After the soldering I sanded the weld and polished it with motor tool.

Then adjusted the frame to fit the body.



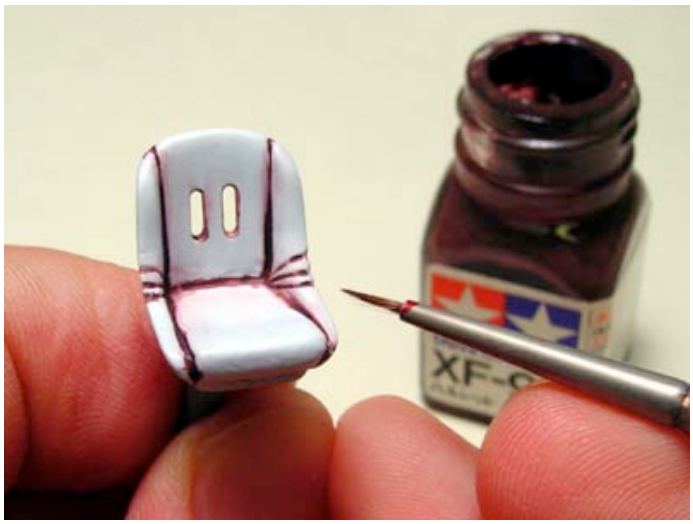
The next step for the window is making a pattern. I transferred the shape of the opening to a masking tape and...

Applied the tape on a 0.3mm sheet styrene and cut it out along the line on the tape.

I removed the tape and adjusted the shape of the sheet styrene to fit the frame. Finally I cut out a sheet of clear sheet styrene using this template.

Several layers of ivory white and clear coat have been done at all. It went really good but needs partial polish.

I sanded some "orange peal" area with #2000 sandpaper, and then polished with compound.

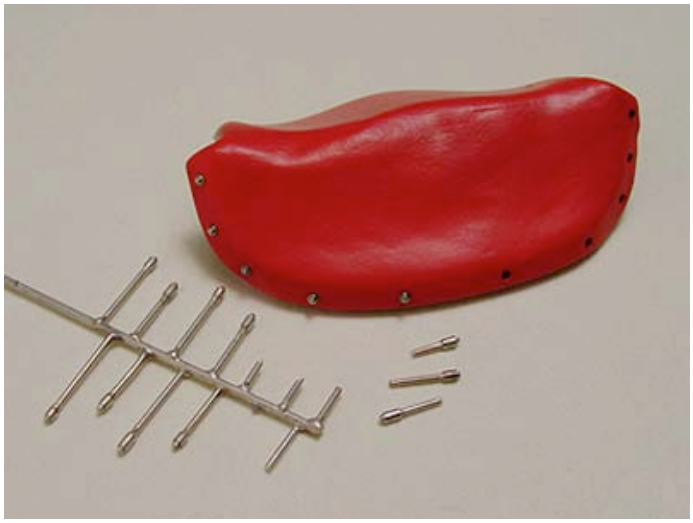


As I'm finishing the body, I started painting the interior.

Regarding the leather seat painting I usually put any dark color on the shade area first, and then spray bright colors on top of it.

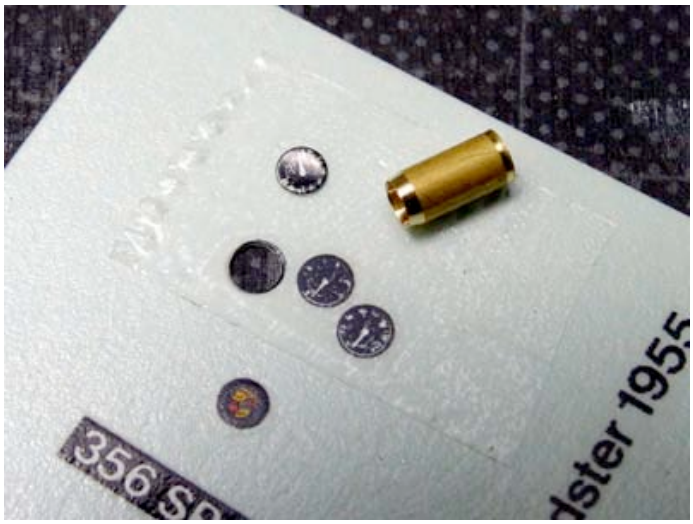
As you know I have already fitted the dashboard to the body but it requires more shaving.

Now the windsheild frame, body and dashboard fit well.



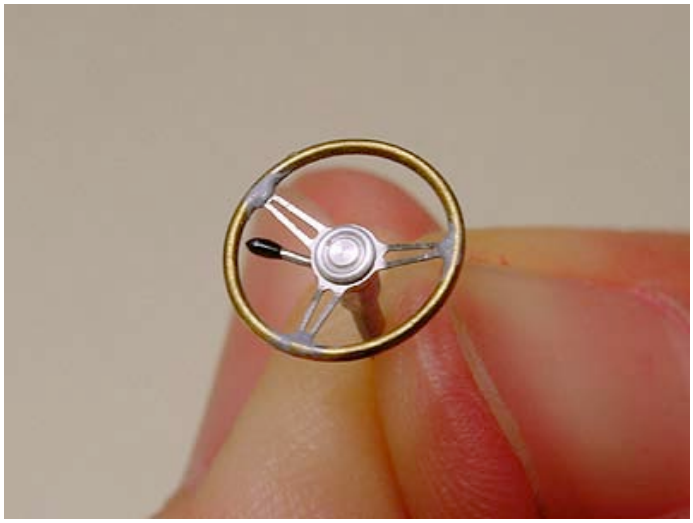
I nickle-plated the hooks were made with brass lines and tubes, and then plugged them into the tonneau cover.

I glued the driver and the passenger seats on the floor. The paint should be removed to for better adhesion.



This is an efficient way to make a gauge with glass cover. I put Scotch tape on the decal and punched it with a brass tube.

Of course the edge of this brass tube is sharpen, the diameter is also adjusted to the meter decal.



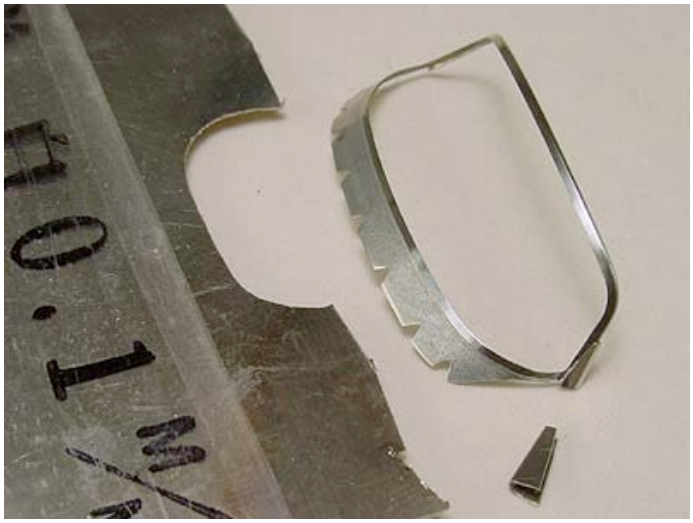
The steering boss consists of two different diameter of brass tubes. I attached the horn button and the turn signal switch.

I painted the steering wheel rim white and glued the assembly to the dashboard. Some toggle buttons were added with nickel silver tips, too.

The black strip decals stick very well to the moldings with the help of Mr. Mark Softer by Gunze.

This Milan's number plate may be wrong for this car, however it's a small gift for the customer.

I noticed that I missed to paint the top part of the inner door panel in red when I was checking almost completed body with the reference book.



Of course I carefully masked the body and then sprayed red.

I also found that there are tiny posts on both sides of the windowshield frame. I made them out of nickel-silver sheet.

After the windowshield was attached, I glued other small parts, two small wipers and the rear view mirror. And then the all work is done!