



# RUSTY NUTZ

## An Auto-X Xmas

By Rusty Nutz

Most of you are sitting around the Christmas tree, tummies full of leftovers and holiday grog, gazing at the booty Santa has left you . . . and thinking about the stuff you really would have rather had. You had a pretty good idea of what you wanted, but you just didn't know exactly how to get it. It's too late for this year, but you've got a birthday less than a year away and next Christmas will be here sooner than you think. To get what you really want, just leave this article somewhere conspicuous where Santa is likely to come across it two or three weeks before the day in question. Mark it liberally with check-marks and notes. You can show your gratitude by sending me anything on the list c/o Auto-X, and I'd appreciate your paying big attention to the upper end stuff.

### BUDGET

- \_\_\_ Stopwatch. Simpler the better.
- \_\_\_ Books. How to Drive, How to Fix, How to Cheat; Marque Anthologies (big with owners of oddball vehicles — Morgans, Citroens, etc.).
- \_\_\_ Thermos-bottles or mini-coolers. Nice to be refreshed while getting humiliated at an event.
- \_\_\_ Screwdrivers. No one has enough, and we all ruin the ones we have.
- \_\_\_ Paper pads, pens, clipboard. Used to write down things to agonize over during the week.
- \_\_\_ Vise-grips. Like screwdrivers, except these tend to run away from home.
- \_\_\_ A great big box of rags.
- \_\_\_ Duct tape. Rolls and rolls. All colors. (Santa: don't ask.)
- \_\_\_ Soap and wax. Get one wax for the whole car and one with an abrasive polish to get the pylon paint off the sides of the car while everyone else is talking about his and her perfect runs.
- \_\_\_ Eyewear. Serious driver's glasses for you-know-which-types, rhinestone shades, or cheap sunglasses. Satch goggles for the truly bizarre.

- \_\_\_ Subscription to Auto-X (tell 'em Rusty sent ya).
- \_\_\_ A big sturdy cardboard box that holds everything in the trunk and a big sheet of plastic to wrap it with. This way the driver never needs to look at all the useless stuff that breeds in the trunk.
- \_\_\_ Driving gloves. Those of you with taste should cross this one out now.
- \_\_\_ Bottle of expensive cognac, nectar of the gods. This is not for drinking, but for an offering to the mechanic.
- \_\_\_ Beer. This is for drinking.

### MODERATE

- \_\_\_ Helmet. Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note to Santa: Make your choice on the basis of the value of the head in question or the likelihood of the helmet actually being called upon to perform.)
- \_\_\_ Radar detector (super-het only, please) or a lawyer gift certificate.
- \_\_\_ Cigarette-lighter plug air compressor. A quiet one. All those buzzing compressors are murder in the pits for those of us recovering from our Saturday night training.
- \_\_\_ Steering wheel. Leather.
- \_\_\_ Five-point driver's harness.
- \_\_\_ Nomex or imitation nomex driver's suit (see note for driving gloves).
- \_\_\_ Nitrous oxide injection kit (this should really be in the expensive category, for reasons that will become obvious by the end of the season).
- \_\_\_ Velcro seat covers (see "Pucker Factor," Auto-X, August '86).
- \_\_\_ Roll Bar.
- \_\_\_ More beer.

### EXPENSIVE

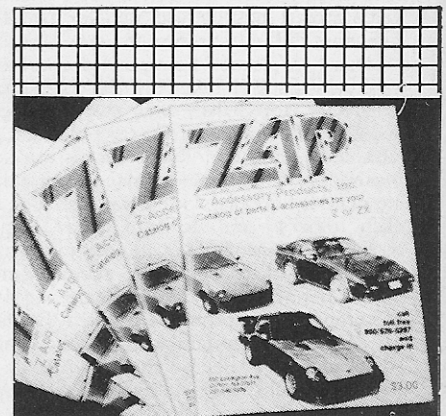
- \_\_\_ Tires. Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Factory rep \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ Wheels. Ditto.
- \_\_\_ Suspension Kit.
- \_\_\_ A car stereo system equal to the value of the car.

- \_\_\_ Laser gun to disintegrate "Child on Board" (or other equally stupid) warning signs from car windows.
- \_\_\_ Turbo kit. (Note to Santa: Only do this to someone you really don't like very much.)
- \_\_\_ Enrollment in a top-notch Autocross/Racing School.
- \_\_\_ Trailer. (See notes for turbo kits, nitrous oxide and new car.)
- \_\_\_ New car. See cars driven by class champs 1986.
- \_\_\_ Enough beer.

### IF YOU'RE REALLY SANTA

- \_\_\_ Three seconds on a one-minute course.

Happy holidays!



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