

CONCOURSE PRIMER

It's surprisingly easy to prepare a competitive car for entry in Lotus/West class at the Hollywood Bowl Concours. Most of our cars are driven regularly so in competing amongst other club members the judges will be looking not for a concours vehicle but simply the cleanest vehicle. The key is to pay attention to each of the following categories and their worth:

	Points
Elegance (conception of design)	50
Paint and Finish	35
Coachwork and top	25
Chrome and glass	25
Seats and Upholstery	25
Dash Panel	12
Floor Covering	12
Boot and Luggage compartment	15
Engine and compartment	50
Chassis	20
Extras (Fire extinguisher, tools, first aid)	5
Mileage	13
Age	13

First thing is don't wait, begin this weekend. Buy a can of spray gunk, arm yourself with a fistful of quarters and head for the nearest do-it-yourself car wash. Do a number on the engine, suspension and chassis. Don't worry about the mess you're making on painted surfaces - just save a quarter and hit those last. The only caution on the engine is to pay some mind on carbs and ignition. Each Lotus model calls for different precautions, so call another owner for the scamm on how and what to seal off before hosing.

Ok, assuming engine, etc. are clean and dry begin touch ups on paint chips. Try polishing the smooth aluminum with simichrome and wouldn't the A-arms look nice sprayed silver? Don't forget to clean the wheel well and undercarriage.

Next the interior. Wash the seats. Polish (at least dust) the dash. Windex the glass instruments faces. Vacuum the carpets. (Besides cleaning, the vacuum will fluff the pile).

Now the exterior. Simichrome all chrome surfaces. Now, this is important - don't deny yourself the best shine on your paint your tired eyeballs have ever seen. Buy a bottle of Meguiars Competition Finish Conditioner and a bottle of Meguiars Competition Finish and several turkish towels. Apply same as directed - stand back and orgasm.

Next, windex the windows. Then fill (the already immaculate) trunk with fire extinguisher, tools, first aid kit, etc. This is 5 easy points - don't lose them.

Remember to pay attention to detail and everywhere you can see on the car the judges will look. The points spread between first and fourth last year was about 20 but in cleanliness it could be attributed in one case to smudgy windows (remember the windex!) and in another simply dirty carpets.

So there it is in simple terms. Just think clean - really clean.