

# Lead sleds call for heavy lines

*There's nothing subtle about the stripes on these Chevys*

**P**at Finley of Montgomery, Illinois, has been pinstriping since 1958. Over the years he's striped his share of "lead sleds" like the '52 Chevy you see here. The term refers to large, post-war American cars that have been heavily modified—typically, the suspension is lowered and the vehicle's cab is cut down for a lower, sleeker look.

"I've been striping cars like this one for my whole career," says Pat. "It's my favorite type

of striping, and it's just right for this type of car. This kind of striping is traditionally heavy and bold, and not very subtle—the striper uses high-contrast colors and a heavy line that's about 1/8 in. wide. I use the whole brush, and a different grip on the brush than the folks who do fine-line and scroll striping."

"For this chocolate brown car, I decided to use cream and red. I cleaned the surface with GON, an automotive surface cleaner,



Trunk lid



Pat add his "bug"—his signature—on the trunk



Owner: Bobby Middleton, Lombard, Illinois







Owner: Justin Van Dusen, Sandwich, Illinois

then wiped it down with a chamois and water. I used to use ScotchBrite® pads, but a lot of these owners are pretty fussy about their paint jobs. They don't want to see any fine scratches around the striping."

Bob Middleton, the owner of the brown Chevy you see on page 56, saw Pat's work at a show in Milwaukee and hired him on the spot. "The owners of cars like these," Pat explains, "want the look of that era. That's the era that I came out of. I'm 62 years old and came up looking at the work of Ed Roth, Dean Jeffries, and Larry Watson. Back then, car designs were big and bold—and that's the way the striping was, too." •SC