

5 Easy Wins for Any DIY Enthusiast

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After watching a football game over the weekend, I reflected on the projects I have running in the garage and realized nearly everything I had in progress was the equivalent of a playoff game: High stakes, big investment, quite challenging. Not all projects need to be this way, though, and sometimes the opposite is necessary. When all you need is a bit of momentum to work in the garage, it is time to look for an easy win.

The idea is to get the tools out, roll around on the floor, and generally just force ourselves over the mental hump that obscures the motivation that we know exists within us but just can't be found. Knocking out one or two small projects can help get our minds back in the groove of getting work done, rather than just thinking about doing so. If you need a swift kick to get restarted on your project, consider using one of these five tasks to break free from a DIY funk.

Fluid Swap



Which fluid, you ask? Pick one. Whichever is easiest or simply hasn't been done in recent memory. Rear differentials often get ignored when talking about [oil changes](#), but with only a few quarts of oil and relatively easy access for most models, it makes for a perfect task to get something done—one that often goes smoothly. Just remember to loosen and remove the fill plug before the drain, because if it's stripped or otherwise damaged, you're left with an empty diff and an un-drivable car.

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Tire Rotation



If you don't even have the motivation to get under the car, no problem. Vintage and hobby-use cars often get driven fewer miles, and it makes keeping track of items like tire wear and rotations tougher, because things often deteriorate too slowly to be noticed. Tire wear is a prime example. Most people walk up to a car and see tires that are black and round and call it good. Taking an hour or two to pick up a car, rotate the tires, and [do a light inspection](#) is

an easy project that only requires hand tools and a floor jack with stands. Consult your owners manual or trusted mechanic to confirm the jacking points so as to not damage the car.

Quick Detailing



It's winter for a lot of drivers, and that makes it extra tough to get out in an often unheated and dark garage to get anything done on your slumbering fun car, especially when it is nearly unrecognizable under the heavy layer of garage grime. Just getting the car cleaned up and looking proper again can bring a surprising amount of motivation with it. Grab a couple of your favorite detailing chemicals, and make your car look as good as it does in your head.

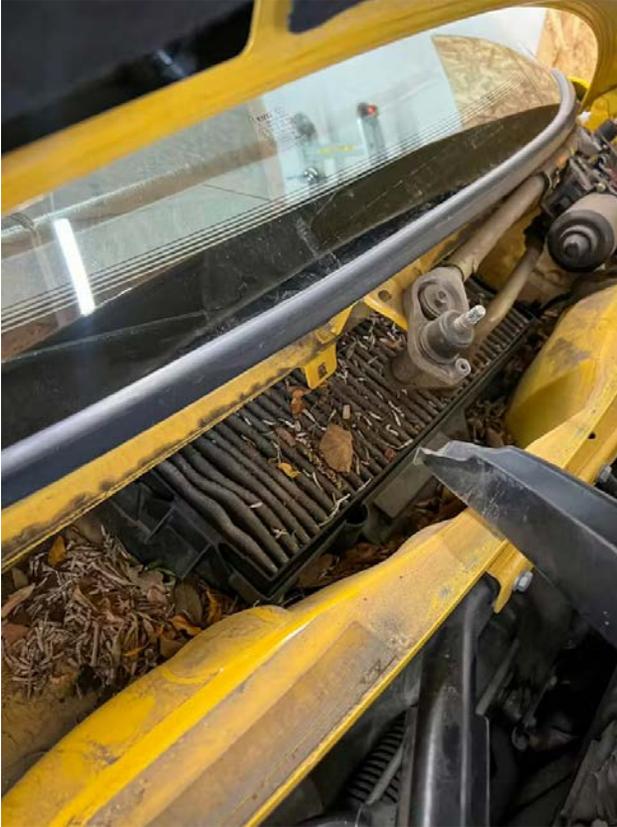
Suddenly, getting going on a larger project might be just that little bit easier.

Air Filters

For any car of any age, it is a worthwhile task to pop in a fresh air filter. Your engine will really appreciate a literal breath of fresh air. If it's paper, drop in a new one. Oiled mesh—grab the cleaning kit. Regardless, just like tires, air filters are often easy to forget about changing on any regular schedule.

Maybe we are out of the realm of what most consider vintage cars by bringing up cabin air filters, but modern enthusiast cars shouldn't be ignored, either. This isn't a simple project on all cars, but have a look and see if your particular model is not so bad to DIY.

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Fresh, clean air when you go for that next drive is a tiny luxury and one that is very much worth a little DIY effort.

A Basic Ignition Tune-Up



At the very least, popping off the distributor cap and inspecting the ignition system is a good thing to do from time to time. Swapping out a set of points for either a fresh set or an electronic module doesn't take long and was once something done every year or two. Even if your car isn't getting used as a daily driver like it was when new, those ignition components still wear and degrade. Just a quick freshen-up with a few new or new

old stock parts will often make a car start and run smoother for just a small amount of work using only a few hand tools.