

# Bent Custom and Performance

## An Old-School Hot Rod and Bike Shop

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Top, sign is small but all that's needed. Bottom, doesn't get more old school, does it?



Hot Rods and bikes have long been a major component of the entire car culture. Not for everyone, their owners are usually a breed apart, a small group of people who really like to stand out from the crowd, people who like to be different. And in that, they are very much alike. It's the minds and creativity and talent behind the builders of these rods and rides that sets them apart. The ability to create from nothing, something exceptional, and turn mundane into exciting is rare, and that's where Mark Bohlen of Bent Custom and Performance in Chatsworth, California comes in.

"You've got to strive to outdo yourself every time you take a job," he said. "You're only as good as your last piece."

Mark got his start in crafting custom cars and bikes before he had a driver's license, redesigning and customizing model cars. He went on to win competitions with these cars, and that, coupled with a lot of influence from family and friends, is what started the passion for customizing bikes and cars. After spending some time working for other shops and studying how they did their work and ran their businesses, he took the leap of faith to open his own garage. With a 1,000-square foot shop, he began creating unique vehicles for a small client roster that grew much more quickly than he anticipated, therefore prompting him to expand into a 3,000-square foot garage. In spite of his success, Mark operates a very low-key, modest shop, and keeps himself in check.

"I'm here to make some cool rides," he said. "I have a tremendous list of customers, all of whom are also friends, and I feel very blessed to have that."

From his very old-school shop emerge some amazing pieces indeed, from 1929 Fords to custom Harley-Davidson motorcycles, the sky's pretty much the limit at Bent. Like most garages of a commercial nature, Bent is fully equipped. As such, Mark's toy box boasts all the modern