

Gastester Professional

BY BRUCE SIMURDA

The latest engine tuning tool from Gunson's

In this rapidly changing world, what appears to be the most current technology today is often quickly replaced by another more advanced and more accurate technology. And nowhere is this more true than the automotive industry. In the '90s, stricter rules and regulations on safety and pollution will pretty much guide the way in which new automobiles are designed and manufactured. It may also determine how older cars are required to be maintained.



Tuning your engine to meet smog emission requirements has become increasingly important in nearly every state. We found the Gunson's Gastester Professional to be an accurate tool for determining the amount of Carbon Monoxide in the exhaust.

When *Hot VWs* magazine was first started, the Beetle was in full production with sales of over 300,000 annually. But since the standard Beetle hasn't been imported into the United States for 16 years now, just about every Beetle on the road can be considered a classic. What you and I consider a classic, however, might be valued as nothing more than an old, noisy and polluting junker to those in power who make the rules (although *they* like caviar, escargot and that pâté stuff — so who's to judge). In an effort to reduce the number of (what they consider) "junkers" we can expect increasing regulations in the area of pollution control inspections and hands-on testing.

Southern California, because of its large

concentration of cars in a relatively confined area, may be considered a window to the future for other states as far as smog regulations go. We've had the strictest rules for years, and mandatory testing for as long as this youthful (yeah, right!) editor has been driving. Passing the bi-yearly smog test has become somewhat of a challenge, and we all look forward to it with the anticipation of a dental visit.

This year, however, we were prepared. We'd just heard of a new device called Gunson's Gastester Professional from Auto Expert Products in Boca Raton, Florida, (you may remember we tested Gunson's "Colortune" several years back) which measures the percentage of carbon monoxide, or CO, in a vehicle's exhaust

gas. The amount of CO in the exhaust gas is an accurate indicator of air/fuel mixture, and is largely unaffected by the ignition timing (NOx emissions, on the other hand, are highly affected by ignition timing). Because of this, by measuring the amount of CO in your exhaust gasses you can accurately tune your carburetor to within factory recommended specifications. And since there is a direct correlation between the percentage of CO in the exhaust and the air/fuel mixture of the intake, you can also tune your engine to any air/fuel ratio by adjusting the CO level. Besides the carbon monoxide testing feature, the Gastester Professional also features a two range tachometer (0 - 2,000 rpm direct readout and a "X 1000" range for above 2,000), a