Bucks and Formers

Here at RSL, we specialise in creating all types of body bucks and formers for a variety of projects. Using one of our bucks to help fabricate the bodywork on your classic, race or custom car project has many benefits. Using an accurate buck will save the fabricator time, and this has has two effects, firstly it will speed up your project meaning you get your car finished quicker, and secondly because the metal fabricator will spend less hours on the bodywork, it will be completed quicker to a higher standard. A lot of metal fabricators agree that the money spent on a good buck can be recouped in less labour! But not only will it speed up your project and save you money, it will ultimately make the finished result more accurate.

Using a combination of the metrology grade 3D scanners and latest CAD software, we have developed a fast and accurate process which allows us to deliver a finished buck in as little as two weeks. RSL can help you produce a 3D vehicle buck to the specification, timeframe and budget of your project. We have over two decades of experience in classic car restoration and over a decade in 3D CAD design. We have developed different types of bucks working alongside the country’s best metal fabricators, which means our bucks are designed with the end user in mind. Bucks can be based on existing cars and body panels as well as drawings, photographs or even designed from scratch.

Our Technology Compliments Traditional Methods- Using one of our bucks doesn’t take anything away from the traditional handmade artisan aspect of the traditional techniques, it actually compliments them. Using one of our body bucks, the craftsman will be able to complete the job using traditional methods in the knowledge that the result will be accurate to the design.

COB01 case study – COB01 is one of the original independent suspension AC Cobras. Unfortunately it sustained crash damage to one side which was repaired badly many years ago. Our challenge was to create a buck based on the ‘good side’, and then mirror it over to the damaged side. We were able to do this by scanning the whole car, create an accurate datum centreline, and take cross sections at key areas specified by the metal fabricator. This not only allowed us to take exact measurements to see how far out the damaged side was, but we also used the good side to recreate the damaged side.
**Hammer Formers** – These optional additions can be incorporated into the design if necessary. For detailed and complicated areas of bodywork, hammer formers can be produced so the metal can be physically hammered over the former. These are generally machined from hard plastic such as nylon directly from the 3D data and can take a lot of use and be incorporated to work on and off the buck.

**Mercedes Case Study** - RSL was asked to create a pair of inner wheel arches for a Mercedes 190 custom project. We started by scanning the car at the customer’s site, and used this information to create a buck for this panel that would be used by the metal fabricator. This buck was designed to be reversible so the panels could be created using one buck. The panels where then created and delivered to the customer’s site where he could weld them in place, and all this without the car ever having to move anywhere!
Design - We always work very closely with the end user to fully understand the requirements of each buck that we make. This usually involves having a meeting at the workshop with the people forming the metalwork (so they don’t even need to get anywhere near a computer!) At various stages we can also take 2D drawings from the 3D model to allow freehand adjustments to be made and then these changes are altered on the 3D model.

All our bucks are carefully designed in 3D CAD software to ensure fit and finish, as well as ensure that customer and metal fabricator are happy with the design before anything is physically made. This means that when we assemble the buck onsite, everyone knows what they are getting and everything fits together perfectly. All our bucks are designed so they can be dissembled to enable you to store them flat taking up minimal space.