

Your Backup Speedometer is here!



One day the Speedometer on our little Hot Rod became erratic and then it stopped altogether. I had tried download apps for my Phone that would allow me some Idea of how fast I was going but never had any luck. This had also become an issue with our old Franklin but I was never worried about getting a ticket with it. In fact if I had got a ticket I would have framed it and hung it up in the shop. The Hot Rod was another story altogether, since getting a ticket would not be a problem.

I recalled a problem we had while building a Hot Rod Truck, the information coming out of the Transmission was digital and it was going to be quite a tap dance to make it useful. The solution was a GPS Speedometer that did not care what Tire size or Rear End ratio you had. The only drawback would be the Power and the antenna.

I struggled with finding a solution until I discovered the Bicycle folks (the folks with the funny helmets, tight nickers and bizarre shoes) had already solved the problem. So it was off the Amazon to purchase a GPS Bicycle Speedometer. This little self contained unit set me back all of \$30 on Amazon. With a rechargeable Battery life of over 20 hours it seemed ideal. The only issue I could find was that they were supplied with a mount designed to go over the Handle bar if a Bicycle. Undaunted by facts we pressed on and soon we were the proud owner of on one of these little units.

Since the mount on the rear of the Speedometer unit was bit unusual I searched around the internet and found a 3 Dimensional file (STL file) file for that particular mount. I was able to add a small cup to that file so it would accommodate a magnet.

This worked out very well and allowed this to move easily from car to car.

They do however, behave a bit different from the traditional Speedometer. It takes the GPS unit a while to find enough Satellites to begin operating, this could be five minutes or more. Go into a tunnel or behind some steep hills and you may loose the signal. A metal Car roof may cause a problem and require mounting near the windshield. There can be a little lag as it updates your speed.

So far it has worked very well in every car we have tried it in. We get MPH and distance information and there are other things like altitude that are available. All in all it had been a great addition.

JB