

**" HOW MANY
MODIFICATIONS
DO I NEED TO HAVE
TO ENTER IN A
MODIFIED CLASS? "
THAT'S A TRICKY
QUESTION TO
ANSWER. "**



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TO MODIFY OR NOT TO MODIFY...?

One of the fastest growing classes at MCA National and Grand National shows is the Modified class. Since the early days of American motoring, owners personalized their vehicles by changing the style, color, performance, and other items of creativity to reflect their own image in the car they drove for work and play. Modern day auto enthusiasts are certainly no different. As soon as the Mustang was introduced, owners made changes to enhance their pride of ownership. Vendors and other entrepreneurs, quick to grasp the potential of profits in offering parts and services to those wishing to modify appearance and/or performance, made the art of modifications much easier. We see minor and major changes to Mustangs of all vintages, not only at shows but in their daily use. Several years ago, MCA recognized this exciting and popular trend and created the Modified class.

How does one prepare a modified Mustang for an MCA National, or even if one should enter it as Modified has been a mystifying question. One of the most frequent questions asked about judging is, "In which class should I put my Mustang?" Many of those questions concern those who ask "How many mods do I need to have to enter in a modified class?" That's a tricky question to answer. There seems to be the traditional black and white answers and a host of grey. If a Mustang has a few "bolt-on" mods such as aftermarket wheels, exhaust system, headers, and non-factory carb, there may be insufficient mods for a car to do well in a modified class. On the other hand, a small handful of mods may make a Mustang non-competitive in other judged classes. That makes such a car "neither fish nor fowl."

Notwithstanding that quandary, it is not difficult to prepare a Mustang for competition in the Modified Class at a national MCA show. First and foremost it is important to understand the Modified Mustang Rules. They are well and clearly articulated in the MCA website. Basically there are six Modified Classes. Four of these are judged and are classified according to year, whether they are driven or trailered, and whether or not the undercarriage is to be judged. The other two classes are a Restomod Class and a Race or Drag Mustang Class. Both of these classes awards are based on popular vote.

A review of the rules will show that a modified Mustang's chances for an award are greatly enhanced by quality of workmanship, attention to detail, level of engineering, use of custom-made components, extent of modification, and degree of difficulty.

Another serious consideration is mods to all elements of the car—exterior, interior, engine compartment, trunk/hatch, and undercarriage. Some mods may have been difficult to perform but obscure to the judge's eye. For that reason it is important to have a written list of all modifications, placed in the trunk, so that the judging team knows what has been done to the car. Also, the lack of such a list will cost 9 points!

And, speaking of judging, the Division VII, Modified Class judging sheets are unique in that all points are additive rather than deductive as in all other judged classes. But as in all classes workmanship, condition, and cleanliness are paramount. By far, the highest percentage of points earned in the judged modified classes is for these three components. As an example, of the possible 134 points that can be earned in the engine compartment, all but 40 points are for workmanship, condition, and cleanliness the remainder (30%) for modifications.

The question of which class your car belongs in is ultimately to be answered by you and the Classification Team whose review is made before registration. The MCA website states that, "Since cars are judged on their own merits, the judging staff hopes our shows will be a learning process to assist in bringing all entries to the highest level of achievement desired."

MCA's Assistant National Head Judge for Classification is Patsy Brown. The Assistant National Head Judge for Modified is her husband, Shorty Brown. These two judges are able and most willing to answer questions regarding the placement of your Mustang in the most appropriate class.

Additionally, judging seminars are held at each MCA National show to aid those involved in the judging process to increase their knowledge of Mustangs and to know what to look for when correctly evaluating each element on the judging sheet.

To modify or not to modify... a question only you can answer. But remember MCA is all about families enjoying their Mustangs and one another's company.

See you and your Mustang at the show site.



Allen Stewart
National Head Judge
3rd-5th Generations

Allen Stewart