

# CELEBRATING OVER 25 YEARS SERVICING THE TRUCK ACCESSORY AFTERMARKET

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2016



#### Top-Notch Truck ...

...is a direct mail magazine for aftermarket truck accessories. The magazines are customized with each sponsoring dealer's identity, location and phone numbers. Each dealer has their own targeted mailing list for magazine circulation. The purpose of Top-Notch Truck is to create brand awareness, sales appeal, store traffic, and sales for truck aftermarket dealers and suppliers.

Program includes a six time mailing cycle. Two editions are printed per calendar year.

Spring: January through June Fall: July through December

# **2015 Тор- Nотсн**

### Truck Dealer Roster

Custom Camper Covers Huntsville AL

Southern Truck Outfitters Decatur AL

Line-X of Escondido Escondido CA

Cap City Danbury CT

Buddy's Holiday Truck & Van Fort Pierce FL

Arrow Toppers Pinellas ParkFL

Rayside Truck & Trailer W. Palm BeachFL

Line-X of Lauderdale Pompano BeachFL

Custom Camper Lake City GA

Line-X of Mason City Mason City IA

Midwest Toppers & Pickup Accessories Effingham IL

Tillman's Van & Truck Greenwood IN

Tillman's Van & Truck Plainfield IN

Hardin County Truck Tops Elizabethtown KY

Performance Off Road Alexandria KY

Line-X of Louisville Louisville KY

Stuff for Trucks Louisville KY

Roberts Truck Accessories Lake Charles LA

Truck'n America Ocean City MD

Truck'n America Laurel MD

Truck'n America Finksburg MD

Truck'n America Waldorf MD

Line-X of Augusta Farmingdale ME

ACR Performance Fruitport MI

Advantage Auto & Truck Zeeland MI

Alum-a-Lite Truck Country Michigan CenterMI

Bruce's Truck Accessories Mattawan MI

Topper Town Albuquerque NM

Truckin' America Rochester Rochester MN

Pur Performance St Charles MO

MidAmerica Truck Tops Eureka MO

Midwest Customs Carrolton MO

Camper City Gulfport MS

Truck Accessories & Covers Lincoln NE

Rhino Linings of Trenton Trenton NJ

Cooper's Truck Accessories New Boston OH

Fastlane Truck Accessories Chesterland OH

Fastlane Truck Accessories Mentor OH

The Cap Place Mansfield OH

The Truck Shop Toledo OH

Cap Stop North Canton OH

Classic Accessories LLC St Clairsville OH

Engle Sales & Service Martinsburg OH

McLaughlin Truck Caps & Trailer Sales Salem OH

Steve's Vans Marietta OH

Cap It Off Allentown PA

Elite Custom Coach Murrysville PA

Line-X of Knoxville Knoxville TN

Accessory Superstore Denton, TX

Line-X of Johnson County Cleburne TX

Texas Tops McAllen TX

Quality Truck Accessories Longview TX

Stone's Camper Sales San Marcos TX

Truck'n America Fredericksburg VA

Truck'n America Purcellville VA

Southwest Camper Sales Inc. Coeburn VA

A & K Truckland Green Bay WI

Cap Connection Waukesha WI

Extreme Truck Outfitters Casper WY

# **Top-Notch** Truck Program Overview

very product needs a hard-driving vehicle to penetrate lucrative markets and produce sales. For truck accessory manufacturers that critical link between your products and customers is provided by Top-Notch Truck. TNT is the largest direct marketing program produced specifically for truck accessory manufacturers and dealers. By reaching the perfect customer at the perfect time, this high-octane program fuels profits for your products.



# DIRECT MAIL MARKETING

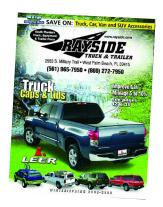
• Guaranteed distribution

With up to 50,000 copies distributed and a readership exceeding 100,000 people TNT magazine provides your products with the perfect platform to make a lasting impression.

- National network of participating truck accessory dealers
   Participating dealers to partner with you to distribute your products. Your ad will be prominently featured in every dealer's magazine creating a unique partnership with TNT.
- TNT targets your most lucrative customers

  Reaching the perfect customer (truck owners) at the perfect buying time, TNT drives sales of your products by delivering your products directly to these buyer's doors.









# Top-Notch Truck offers dealers a choice of various specific manufacturer covers & spreads while still keeping the magazine customized to their dealership!























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# 2016 Advertiser TNT Rate Card

### MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

#### **GENERAL CIRCULATION AND ADVERTISING RATES**

#### Circulation

Total circulation up to	50,000
Number of participating retailers up to	100

#### General Information

#### **Editorial Statement**

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#### **Frequency**

Program includes a six time mailing cycle. Two editions are printed per calendar year.

#### Advertising Options All ads are four-color

Full Page	. \$4,500
1/2 Page	. \$2,500
1/4 Page Vertical	. \$1,500

#### **Mailing Seasons**

Spring: January through June Fall: July through December

#### **Closing Dates and Space Reservations**

Spring: Space Reservation. December 31, 2015
 Final Ad Materials . . . . January 8, 2016
 Fall: Space Reservation . . . . June 24, 2016
 Final Ad Materials . . . . . . July 1, 2016

#### **Preferred Advertising Media**

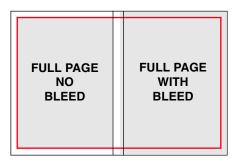
We accept only digital format. No film, please. We create the magazine in Quark on Macintosh. We accept files on Zip or CD media or via our FTP site. Call for FTP instructions.

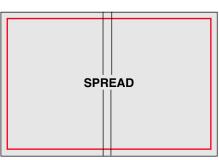
#### **Send All Advertising Materials to:**

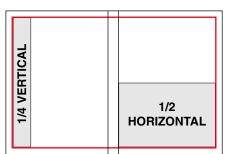
**Outpost Communications** 

Top-Notch Truck

#### **Mechanical Requirements**







AD RATES
Full Page (No Bleed)\$4,500
Full Page Bleed\$4,500
1/2 Page Horizontal\$2,500
1/4 Page Vertical \$1,500

- No cancellations for display advertising are accepted after applicable closing date of publication.
- Published rates are net and non-commissionable for recognized agencies.

Publication Trim Size.....8-3/8" x 10-7/8" Ads based on a 7 " x 10" page area.

#### **DISPLAY AD SIZES**

#### **Printing Specifications**

Paper: 60 lb. Gloss Text
Binding: Saddlestitched
Size: 8-3/8" X 10-7/8"

Electronic files are requested. Files must be accompanied by a contract color proof. Electronic files must be in CMYK mode. No spot colors. Files provided must be usable without alteration or repair. Items not meeting this requirement will be repaired by the customer or the publisher at the current rate of \$95 per hour. Ads may be sent on compact disc in jpg, tif, eps, and/or pdf format at 300dpi or via e-mail.

• Bleeds must be 1/8th inch on all four sides.

# Top-Notch Truck Direct Mail

## WINNING NEW CUSTOMERS IS EXPENSIVE

So, keeping existing customers is worth every penny you invest. And keeping customers really comes down to keeping in touch with them. Within reason, the more often you connect with your customers, the more often they will be thinking of you and the more likely they are to return to buy from you again. And they'll tell their friends about you, too.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," they say. Whoever *they* are, they never worked in marketing. Customers quickly forget. It's the job of marketing to remind them of who you are and give them reasons to return to your shop.

Two of the most effective methods of keeping in touch are direct mail and e-mail marketing.

You may think e-mail is so quick, cheap and easy that you don't need to deal with printing and mailing anything ever again. Think again. E-mail is also much easier to delete than snail mail. People at least have to carry the mail from the mailbox to the trash bin. E-mail doesn't get those extra few seconds of exposure.

Don't get me wrong. I love e-mail. It's just not the marketing silver bullet that you may think it is. I get more than 100 e-mails a day. Most go unopened. I get about five pieces of mail a day, and almost every one gets noticed.

# HOW TO HAVE PERFECT TIMING

Here's a true story about the effective use of direct mail to sell automotive services to a very marketing-savvy consumer. The customer: my wife, Beth.

One day, I got a birthday card from a local service station with a coupon for a free oil change. Their timing was perfect. So, Beth took the family van for an oil change. While she was there the service writer asked if she'd heard a rattle when going over bumps. She had. But, she delivered her standard get-out-of-a-sales-pitch line: "I need to talk to my husband about that." (Her other great line is "That's not in our budget." Stops sales people in their tracks every time!)

A few days later, she got a thank-you note from the garage. A few days after that, she got a reminder of the needed repair. Later, she got a coupon for 10 percent off the specified repair. Then, she found herself in the shop waiting room a day or two before her coupon expired.

"The mailings were so frequent they almost bordered on stalking," Beth said. "But we did need the repair. And we were taking the family on a long road trip. So, the timing of their coupon was perfect."

I realize auto repair is not restyling. But the same marketing concept works whether you sell oil changes or spoilers. The goal is it to keep in constant contact with customers. Keep in touch with them regularly and you'll be amazed at how often your timing will be *perfect*.

### KNOW CUSTOMERS OR NO CUSTOMERS

A good direct mail campaign all starts with a good database. I suggest you make a wish list of your customer's favorite accessories. When you first meet with a new customer, find out what he or she aspires to. What are their hot buttons? Make notes. Put it in your database and send them reminders about that trailer hitch, bed liner or set of hot new rims they want someday.

You'll notice the deal closer for Beth was the discount. It's probably the same for your customers, too. A 10 to 20 percent discount is a lot less to pay to bring back an old customer than you'd pay in advertising dollars to get a new one. And in today's economy, a coupon can help put a purchase within your customer's reach. Especially if they have been holding on to their economic stimulus check waiting for a great deal. (You might even hold an Economic Stimulus Sale!)

I suggest you make discounts specific. Avoid offering a blanket 15 percent off your purchase. Focus on lines with something like 10 percent off spoilers and 15 percent off truck caps and lids, or 20 percent off any Brand A hitch or Brand B tonneau. That focuses your customer on a particular product category or brand. A good way to do this is with a simple full-color postcard mailing. It's inexpensive and has great impact.

When used too often, discounting can erode your profitability without creating customer loyalty. But used selectively, it can be a good tool to build relationships. Once your customers experience your great service, they'll remain loyal, with or without a coupon.

### CREATING NEW CUSTOMERS FROM OLD ONES

Direct mail to your existing customers can also be a great way to bring in new customers. The idea is simple. Guys and gals who are into their car or truck tend to hang out with other guys and gals that are into their car or truck.

Mailing current customers a *Tell-A-Friend* promotion can be a great win-win-win proposition. A good example is, "Give This Postcard To A Friend. You'll both get \$25 off your next purchase of \$200 or more." When the new customer brings in the postcard, your current customer's name will be on it. Mail that customer a \$25 off \$200 thank-you coupon. And don't think because they referred one person they won't refer another. In my experience, people who refer one person tend to refer more.

All the discounts used in this article are only suggestions. You may find larger or smaller discounts more successful depending on your region. Test different offers until you find the one that works best for you. The best offer brings in an optimal number of customers without costing you too much profit.

#### TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT

Direct mail requires a good database. Most pointof-sale software today has a built in database function. That makes it easier to maintain and manage your customer database. If you don't use POS software or yours is outdated, look online. Many have a free 30 or 60-day trial period to let you test out their software.

In the end, the only way you'll know how well direct mail can work for you is to try it. Start small. Test different designs and discounts. And be patient. It may take a few mailings before you see results. But with a little persistence you'll find that, one day, your timing will be *perfect*.

By: Phil Sasso, Restyling Magazine

