



Paul's Product Review

Rear hatchback conversion from a stock fastback GT by V8 Archie

by: Paul Vargyas



About a year ago, at the request of a customer, V8 Archie designed a hatchback conversion for the '86-'88 Fiero GT. This hatchback conversion, now available as a "kit", requires no modifications to the original Fiero GT rear clip and is basically a "bolt on" unit. Made of fiberglass, the kit consists of an outer & interior skin, bonded together with steel reinforcement ribs to provide a solid OEM type fit, finish and quality.

The kit uses the stock Fiero latch, key lock, and rubber bump stops. It has a steel plate fibreglassed into the areas where the stock GT latch and the GT decklid hinges bolt to (the hinges need to have a slight modification, instructions included). The kit uses the Nissan 350Z rear window glass. Archie recommends that you use vents on either side of the rear window to vent the engine compartment. In the picture, you can see how this customer designed his own vents to compliment the rear hatchback look and Archie installed them prior to shipping. If you want Archie to do the vent modification, there is an additional \$100.00 charge. However, you can design your own vents, or you could submit your ideas and Archie can make the vents for you (additional cost).

The picture of this conversion shows the addition of a "spoiler", which is also an extra cost option (\$300.00), and obviously would require body modification and fiberglass work. The picture also shows the V8 Archie "Wide body" upgrade, also available. If you wanted just the "stock" look, the hatchback kit would fit your stock GT with no additional bodywork necessary. You retain your existing GT taillights, as is. The Nissan 350Z rear glass is not included, since the time and cost to package and ship glass is expensive, and these 350Z rear glass windows are available almost everywhere locally at a Nissan dealer or automotive glass store. If you have an upgraded engine install, or just want to show off your stock Fiero engine, this hatchback upgrade will give you a look that is more modern and contemporary. The hatchback kits can be shipped anywhere in the US, but do go at an oversize #3 rate. Archie estimates shipping at an average of \$120.00. The "kit" cost is \$675.00 & includes the upper hinge bracket. Archie also specializes in numerous other fiberglass kits including the Fino, Finale, headliner boards, lower rocker panel upgrades, battery boxes, and of course his V8 conversion kits. Archie's web site is: www.V8Archie.com and Archie can be reached

at 1-800-891-3608.