944-SPEC - 944SPEC - low cost wheel to wheel racing Generated: 8 December, 2025, 19:13 And so it begins... Posted by Vintagercr - 09 Mar 2018 07:26 Hi there, And so it begins. I have a nice '83 that I will be using as my SP1 platform. The interior is for the most part gutted and runs decent. My son used it used it a few years back to run the VARA University and now it sits waiting for its next task. The question I have is.... There is a running '86 in decent shape very close to me that I can pic up for a sweet deal. I was wondering what would be interchangeable between the two cars. I does seem there have been some changes made as the years progressed just not that familiar with all the details ..YET. I'm assuming I should be able to swap motors with their respective DME etc. How about steering racks. I know there was a difference between powered vs non powered steering racks, was there a difference between early and later power racks? The available car has an auto transmission (perhaps that's why it has been sitting). That being said, is any of the drive-line compatible with a manual? Am I wasting my time on this '86?? Thanks in advance! \_\_\_\_\_\_

Re: And so it begins... Posted by cbuzzetti - 09 Mar 2018 07:59

Depending on how early of an 83 your car is (steel rear control arms?) will determine what is interchangeable.

Engine and gear box should be no problem. I don't remember if brakes on pre 85.5 cars are same as 83. I know post 87 all that changes.

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If your 83 has aluminum rear control arms I would just use that chassis. Steel rear control arms use a shorter CV axle. Any aluminum rear control arm uses the same CV axle.

The headlight panel on an early car is welded to chassis, later cars it is bolted on.
All wheels from 82-86 (early offset) will interchange.
Re: And so it begins Posted by ChuckS - 09 Mar 2018 11:10
If you come to Willow, we can detail everything for you and show you the differences. No time now as we are leaving for the track
Re: And so it begins Posted by Vintageror - 09 Mar 2018 11:16
Sounds good. Have a safe pull!!