

NY STATE OF MIND

This e38 from the Big Apple reminds just how commanding BMW's 3rd gen 7 series still is





One of the great things we really enjoy about running this magazine is the number of true, died-in-the-wool bimmer enthusiasts we get to meet and share ideas and thoughts with. Every day our inbox is overflowing with messages from people all over the world wanting to share their love for the marque with us *[please don't ever let that stop by the way, it's the main reason this mag exists in the first place - Ed.]*

One such true enthusiast that we have had the pleasure of hearing from is Mark from New York, one of the most passionate 7er fans we have come across. This man's devotion for the biggest of the bimmer family is without contemporary, such is his love for the e38.

As such, we were more than happy to run a feature on his current ride, this incredible looking 2001 740i Sport. The shorter wheelbase version of BMW's legendary range-topper is not without familiarity to a large number of enthusiasts and non-enthusiasts alike, thanks we suspect in no small part to the influence of such silver screen hits as the *Transporter* and James Bond in *Tomorrow Never Dies*.

"I fell in love with the E38 body when watching the movie *The Transporter*. Boy was that movie great or what? Seeing the 7 series in that movie just blew my mind, I personally think the 7 series (E38) is one of the best BMWs ever made." So no doubting where Mark's loyalties lie, then!

People have varying ways of showing their dedication for the marque, more IG and FB pages than can be counted have sprung up over the years as a place where some bimmerlove can be shared: Mark is a little more passionate however. He is presently well along the way to having an his e38 tattoo finished on the side of his body, complete with the NY skyline behind it - now that is absolute devotion to the 3rd generation 7er.

Being a sport model, this particular e38 comes with two particular goodies that are not to be found in the non-



Sport models: a higher stall torque converter as well as a slightly shorter diff ratio (3.15 as opposed to 2.93) to help improve acceleration.

Other refinements which are unique to the Sport model include a 3-spoke M steering wheel, anthracite-colored headliner and contour sports seats - as well as the much nicer (we think) shadowline exterior as opposed to the chrome trim.

Mark came across this 740 only 5 blocks from his house, when he inspected it there were numerous issues with it, a few dents and scratches on the body, a rear window wasn't working and it had the dreaded 50mph shimmy from the front end. Not to be dissuaded, Mark negotiated himself a bargain and suddenly had himself his first 7 series!

First port of call after ownership was an oil change, along with a brake rotor and pad swap. Happily this appeared to fix the front-

end shimmy, which was no doubt a lot easier than going about replacing all the front control arms, which is the usual corrective surgery for the front wobbles on the 7er.

Then Mark had a 35% tint installed on the windows - as every 7er should have we think - and promised himself that that would be the end of his modifications. A likely story.

Before long, he had ordered an aFe intake (www.afepower.com), replaced the exhaust with a stainless steel, more rumbling unit, installed the Alpina front lip and retrofitted the wide-screen, 16" satnav unit found on the later models of the e38 series.

Were they enough mods? Nope - says Mark: "The last thing I ordered was the BC Coilovers, I wanted to go low, static and low to the floor, basically I wanted to scrape on a cigarette bud lol. While I ordered the coilovers I decided to rebuild the front and rear end with OEM parts, I figured why not, time to do them



anyways. With the help of another E38 enthusiast Adam Kowal, we got the front and rear end installed, we also adjusted the coilovers for more low and I had the car just the way I wanted, low, slow and loud."

There's no denying this 7er sits a lot lower than usual - the way those guards swallow up those wheels and tyres just makes this e38 look even meaner than normal: this limousine is definitely more imposing than your average town car.

Perhaps the most noticeable and undoubtedly unique modification to Mark's car [forgive us for having to mention the other German marque in this mag - Ed.] is the AMG paddle shifters which have been retrofitted behind the steering wheel - allowing the steptronic auto to be operated without Mark having to take his hands off the wheel.

This operation was carried out in concert with a full top end engine overhaul to deal with a few oil and other leaks that had worked their way out of the m62 after a few years of driving. The operation was done north of the city and Mark says of the return trip and thereafter:

"Driving back to NY the car felt amazing, everyone on the highway was looking, car was low, loud and clean... Going to local car shows it was a great feeling, definitely a head turner, especially when they saw the AMG paddle shifters, they were amazed how the shifters were retrofitted to work on an older BMW model."

We especially like the angel eye kit which has been retrofitted to the OEM headlights to give this e38 a refreshed, slightly more modern look than the standard lights.

Thanks for sharing your e38 with us, Mark - we are thrilled to be able to share your passion for your 7er with the rest of the bimmer community - it really is an incredible looking e38: if you see him rolling in NY, give him a shout out!



