



New location offers great personality.

# Revisiting Autoboooks-Aeroboooks

## Reinventing the Original

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AUTOBOOKS-AEROBOOKS AND THE AUTHOR

**A**utoboooks-Aeroboooks has been a literary haven for transportation fanatics since 1951, and nothing has changed. It's here that you can probably find that one-off book about Delage that you remember seeing as a youngster, or a poster depicting a 1982 Corvette upon a sunset beach looking very '80s, or the latest edition of virtually any car magazine from around the globe. It's also a place to find unique die cast models and jewelry options outside the norm.

*Garage Style Magazine* covered Autoboooks-Aeroboooks in our second issue (Fall, 2008) giving readers a brief glimpse into a Southern California legend, and while the basic idea and core values of Autoboooks-Aeroboooks remains the same, a

funny thing happened.

"The lease on our old building was renegotiated out of our favor, so we began seeking a new location," said Tina Van Curen, owner of Autoboooks-Aeroboooks. "As it turns out, we discovered a quaint spot just a few blocks to east – actually, the original Autoboooks Burbank location, which is pretty cool."

Looking a bit like a vintage pharmacy from the outside with its corner-situated red door and glass block surrounds, the new-old location is smaller, but livelier than the previous store.

"When we decided to find a new place, it was decided that we would also change the look of the store a little bit," she said. "We wanted it to look more like a garage than a retail

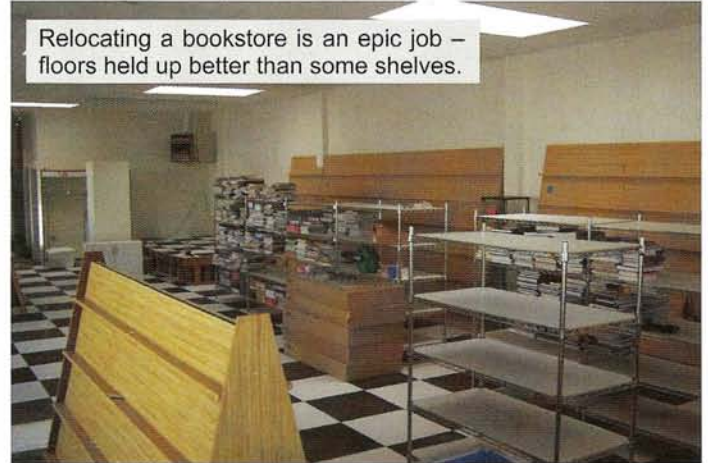
New white walls make old red carpet decent, but still awful.



The concrete was too old and battered to do anything with.



BLT peel and stick vinyl tiles offer a multitude of benefits, look great.



Relocating a bookstore is an epic job – floors held up better than some shelves.

establishment, kind of giving it an edge that appeals to car guys.”

With that in mind, Autobooks invested in new chrome wire bookrack systems, some wall art (not yet placed as of this writing) and a beautiful Peel-N-Stick floor by Better Life Technology.

“This location was previously home to a Judo school, so the door was painted red, which we liked, but it also had red carpeting over concrete,” said Tina. “My first garage-like idea was to pull up the carpeting and just clear seal the concrete, but, when the carpet came up and the original 1927 concrete was exposed, my great idea went out the window.”

The floor was well worn, replete with cracks, stains and

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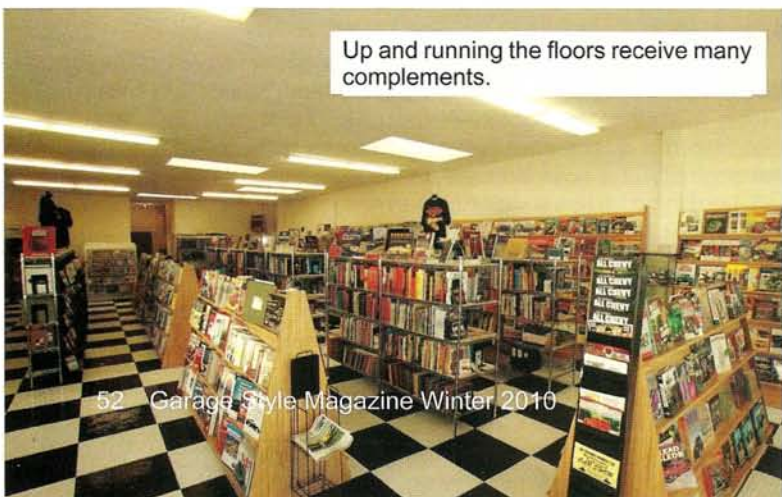
some uneven areas that simply wouldn't fair well with a clear sealant. Looking for a reasonably-priced alternative that would spruce up the shop while covering up the old

concrete, Tina discovered BLT.

“I was overjoyed to find the G-Floor product,” she said. “The idea of a roll-out vinyl floor was terrific – but then they showed me the Peel-N-Stick, and I was sold.”

Tina ordered a diamond tread patterned, black-and-white checkerboard motif in 24”x24” tile sizes to alleviate the busy look that 12”x12” tiles could create. With the newly painted white walls, freshly scrubbed windows and chrome

Up and running the floors receive many complements.



Vintage magazines, anyone?



Autobooks sells essentially everything a transportation enthusiast will need.

bookshelves Autobooks truly took on a new feel.

"We were all nervous about the move, and still have a long way to go, but we're happy that our customers like what they see so far, and look forward to decorating more, and making the shop a destination more rewarding to visit," she said. "The floors really do tie it all together – everyone loves the checkerboard pattern, and because they're vinyl, they're very durable and cleaning them is a cinch."

While the company has come full circle in terms of location, the core values are the same – transportation-loving gear heads have a place to unite and enjoy one another's company. Every Saturday morning, collectors and enthusiasts from around Southern California descend upon Autobooks-Aerobooks for some good conversation and camaraderie, and enjoy pastries and coffees from Porto's Bakery, now just a few blocks down.

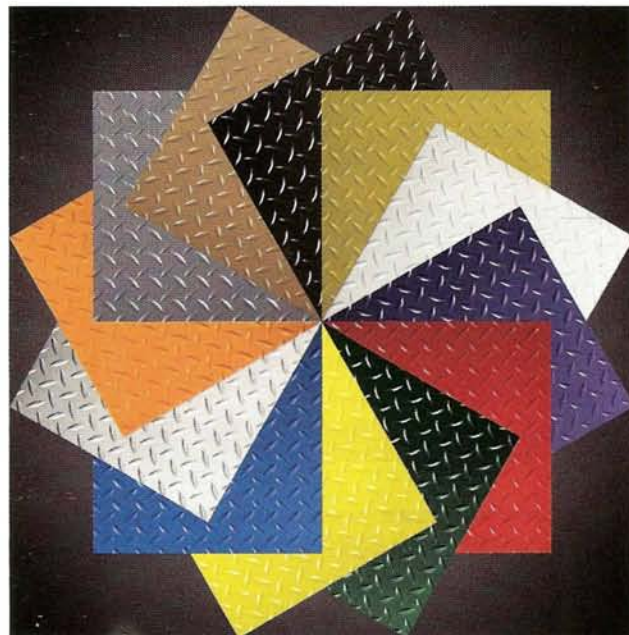
"We're a destination, not just a store – we have a lot of fun," said Tina. GSM

Learn more about Autobooks-Aerobooks on [www.autobooks-aerobooks.com](http://www.autobooks-aerobooks.com), or call 818.845.0707, or visit them at:

Autobooks-Aerobooks  
2900 W. Magnolia Blvd.  
Burbank, CA 91505

## About the Floor

Better Life Technology, or BLT as they're more commonly known, changed the way floors are covered when they brought about their G-Floor. A thick, durable vinyl sold in rolls, the G-Floor was the fast way to brighten up a floor without having to do any major work – simply sweep the floor and roll out the vinyl, use a broom to flatten any wrinkles or high spots, and enjoy (GSM issue 4, page 56). Repellant of most fluids, and resilient against tire marks, kickstand dimples and slipping on the concrete, the G-Floor quickly gained popularity with a large number of people from different walks of life each needing to meet different requirements.



"BLT began because I couldn't find anything of quality to cover my garage floors and protect the concrete against the harsh Mid-Western conditions," said Brett Sneed, co-founder of BLT. "I thought I could make a better product, and that has evolved through the years into some exciting products."

One of those exciting products is the G-Floor RaceDay Peel-N-Stick Vinyl Tiles. Available in a myriad of colors, in 12"-square or 24"-square sizes, the Peel-N-Stick flooring tiles offer the same qualities of the original roll-out G-Floor, but with the ability to mix and match colors, create patterns and just be more flexible and creative. Because of the sticky nature, they're also a little bit more of a permanent application than the Roll Out design.

"The RaceDay floors are really fun, because they are so easy to install, exceptionally robust, and once they're stuck to the floor, so long as the concrete was clean, that's it – it's there until someone puts a lot of effort behind a scrapper to bring it up," said Brett.

Learn more on [www.bltlc.com](http://www.bltlc.com) or call 913.894.0403.

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