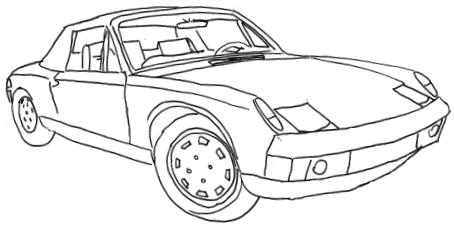
SEMA SHOW 2026 | FUTURETECH STUDIO, BOOTH #24401

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Student Who Bought a 1976 Porsche 914 at Age 11 With Grapefruit Money Debuts Her Self-Built Electric Conversion at SEMA 2026

BFGoodrich Young Guns competitor Frances Farnam will display the car and give a talk on how young people can take on hard builds

LAS VEGAS, NV, Nov. 2, 2026. Frances Farnam, founder of Tinkergineering, will show her electric 1976 Porsche 914 at the 2026 SEMA Show, November 3 to 6, in the FutureTech Studio, Central Hall, Booth #24401. The car is competing in the BFGoodrich Young Guns category of SEMA Battle of the Builders, which recognizes builders 29 and under.

Farnam bought the 914 at age 11 for $2,000 she earned selling grapefruit at a local farmers market. She started with no garage, just a tent on a dirt floor, cheap tools, and no welding experience. Over six years, she restored the car and converted it to electric. Before the high-voltage work, she completed Legacy EV's 5-day EV Fundamentals Bootcamp, including high-voltage safety training. Today the car runs and drives with its original 5-speed manual transmission, which she rebuilt.

When she got stuck, she asked for help. Mentors including Mark Brems of 914Electric, Michael Bream of EV West, Matthew Whitesell of 914 Rubber, and Eric Shea of PMB Performance guided the build. Sponsors such as Toyo Tires and Bilstein supported it in exchange for build content.

> **"The car was never the point," said Farnam. "It's proof that big things get built with a goal, a plan, tiny steps, and the courage to ask for help. And anyone can repeat that process."**

Farnam will present "We Can Do Hard Things: Building an Electric Porsche 914 as My First Car" on Thursday, November 5, from 4:00 to 4:30 PM on the FutureTech LIVE Stage. She is available for interviews at the car November 4 to 6.

A freshman at Cornell University studying environmental engineering, Farnam has been featured by Forbes, NBC Los Angeles, CNBC Make It, and SEMA News. She plans to grow Tinkergineering into a foundation that connects young builders with mentors, starting with a scholarship for a young maker.

About Tinkergineering

Tinkergineering is a build and media brand centered on the electric conversion of a 1976 Porsche 914. Its mission is to show young people they don't need permission, money, or all the answers to start. They need a goal, small steps, and the courage to ask for help.

Media Contact

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Interviews at the car Nov. 4 to 6.
Text Frances: 323-829-4835 | tinkergineering@gmail.com

Press kit
tinkergineering.m-bam.com/articles

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Fact Sheet

The Builder

- Frances Farnam, founder of Tinkergineering
- Freshman at Cornell University, environmental engineering
- Completed Legacy EV's 5-day EV Fundamentals Bootcamp, including high-voltage safety training

The Car

- 1976 Porsche 914, restored and converted to electric
- Bought at age 11 with money from selling grapefruit
- About six years from purchase to a running electric car
- Original 5-speed manual transaxle, rebuilt by Frances
- About 125 miles of range

The Build

- Started with no garage, in a tent on a dirt floor with basic tools
- Documented on YouTube and Instagram for six years
- Funded by grapefruit money, sponsor partnerships, and crowdfunding

Recognition

- Featured by Forbes, NBC Los Angeles, CNBC Make It, SEMA News, Rennlist, Porsche Panorama, and EV Builder's Guide

SEMA Show 2026

- Battle of the Builders, Young Guns Competitor
- November 3 to 6, 2026, Las Vegas Convention Center
- FutureTech Studio, Central Hall, Booth #24401
- Live talk: Thursday, November 5, 4:00 to 4:30 PM, FutureTech LIVE Stage

Sponsors and Mentors

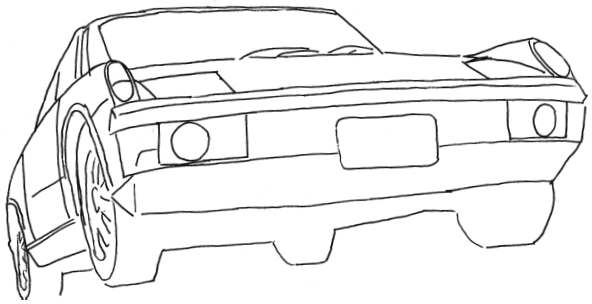
- Supported by two dozen sponsors, mentors, and partners, including Toyo Tires, EV West, 914Electric, 914 Rubber, and PMB Performance
- Full list in the online press kit

What's Next

- A foundation that connects young builders with mentors, starting with a scholarship for a young maker

Follow

- YouTube and Instagram: @tinkergineering



Mission

Show kids they don't need permission, money, or all the answers to start. They need a goal, a next step, and someone to ask.

Interviews at the car Nov. 4 to 6.
Text Frances: 323-829-4835 | tinkergineering@gmail.com

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