

## **Safer, easier and faster process at Walt Disney's Space Mountain vehicle refurbishing shop.**

As you fly through space on Disney's Space Mountain roller coasters, you want to feel that each riding car is designed and maintained to bring you comfort and safety throughout this eventful escapade.

To bring you the expected thrill without sacrificing safety, each car is equipped with controls and safety gears that bring the unloaded weight of each car to 1350 lbs. To further assure continuous high safety, each car is regularly inspected and maintained in an elaborate refurbishing process.

The refurbishing includes stripping the car down to the bare frame before repainting and reassembling with brand new component parts. Traditionally, this process took place with the vehicle placed in a fixed horizontal position on two floor mounted stands.

“With the majority of the components in each car being placed either at the bottom or in the side panels of each car, the access from this position was tough”, states Dave Hurley, a mechanic in the Disney Space Mountain Maintenance Shop. “We continuously had to climb in, under and around the vehicle”, continues Mr. Hurley.

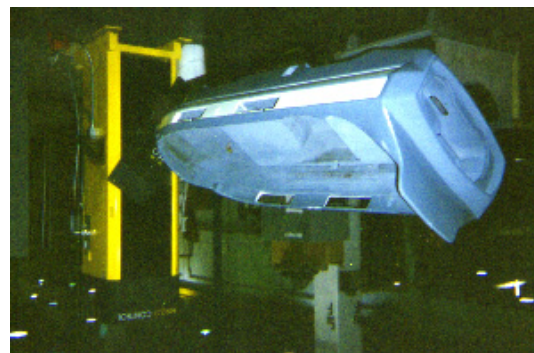
Mr. Roger Dodson, the superintendent for the shop adds that, “Safety was a main issue, since during the refurbishing the men had to climb under the heavy vehicle to get access”. The 3-axis programmable Ergo Control solved this

situation. “Today we can easily raise each car to the height the operator desires, as well as turn each car on its side to easily get access to each side wall to mount components”, mentions Mr. Hurley. Today, we just turn the car on its side, bolt one side, turn the car over on the other side, then bolt the other side of, for example, a bumper”, Mr. Hurley continues. The Ergo Control Positioner makes it easy on the operator's back, since there is no longer any real strain.

“Since the Ergo Control easily and safely turns the entire car assembly upside down, there is no longer a need to have to climb under the heavy cars, and since the operator easily can access any work surface, we have found efficiency to be way up”, claims Mr. Dodson.

“The Ergo Control has been able to cut our time per car down to **ONE DAY** from what used to take **ONE WEEK.**”

“The Ergo Control is a really handy positioning device that soon also will be used in other applications here at Walt Disney”, concludes Mr. Dodson.



*Figure: A car in operation, it is positioned at the desired position with the help of Ergo Control.*