

PASSIONS AND PURSUITS CHECKLIST SERIES | AUTOS

Optimizing your car collection

Your cars are your passion. They're also a significant asset on your balance sheet. J.P. Morgan can help you make sure your car collection receives the same level of sophisticated planning and attention as your traditional assets. This checklist is meant to be a good start and ongoing reference. Here, you'll find some of the key points that should be addressed by anyone who owns collectible automobiles.

Overview

At J.P. Morgan, we apply a simple three-step framework to planning for a passion asset. First, there is the acquisition phase: What can you do to make a smart purchase? Next, of course, is the actual ownership phase. And finally, disposition—the most often overlooked phase of owning any passion asset.



Acquisition

It's easy to fall in love with a car. But how do you know it's right for your collection, and what's the best way for you to go about purchasing it?

- **Provenance**—Is there something special about the car's history that makes it stand out? Did it win Le Mans? Was it the actor Steve McQueen's ride in the 1968 movie *Bullitt*? Was it the first of its kind imported to North America? Or for that matter, do all its serial numbers match, ensuring that it's what the seller claims it to be?
 - Ask for historical maintenance records
 - Get a pre-purchase inspection (PPI)
 - Understand the degree to which the car is original or restored
- Market value—The car market can be tricky to navigate. As most auto enthusiasts
 are aware, a car's value is determined by such factors as its year of production, color,
 provenance, the originality of its parts or paint, and market conditions. Values also
 can vary depending on whether the car is being sold at public auction or privately.
 For these reasons, buyers are well advised to:
 - Engage reputable professionals
 - Study recent auction values and private sales data, including consulting reputable sources for "comparables"

IN BRIEF

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Acquisition Continued

- **Financing**—Consider your options. For example, you might:
 - Pay out of pocket—This is perhaps the most expedient way to acquire a new car, especially if you expect it to appreciate in value, have sufficient liquidity and don't mind expending it
 - Sell investments to generate liquidity—This option is generally ill-advised, especially if you're disrupting your portfolio and creating a capital gains tax bill
 - Borrow–Many car buyers do borrow, using currently owned cars or other assets as collateral
 - Establish a securities-based line of credit—One of the savviest approaches is to create and use a line of credit so you can make a purchase whenever you like
- International purchases—Often high-end collectors find themselves buying cars all over the world and facing foreign currency considerations. Usually, there's a schedule of payments that creates hedging opportunities, foreign currency exposure risks and home currency exchange issues. Planning in advance of the transaction for each can be invaluable.
 - Engage with a specialty import firm that can help you navigate and execute on these waters
 - Ask for an institutional rate of exchange
 - Consider establishing a foreign currency or multicurrency line of credit
 - Think through your best hedging strategies



Ownership

Once you've decided upon the car, the questions become: How will you actually own, maintain, protect and enjoy it?

- Title—To protect your personal assets from creditors and liability related to your cars, consider creating a limited liability company that will own your collection. You can have partnership interests in that LLC and may, if you wish, gift some of these interests to others. An LLC can offer important benefits. It can, for example, shield the identities of collectors who wish to keep their personal identities private. LLCs also can protect personal assets outside of the collection from creditors if there are injuries or accidents related to the collection
- Situs—It is worth exploring where (i.e., in which state) your car should be registered, as that situs will help determine how much sales tax you'll owe when you buy and sell vehicles. For example, some states, such as Montana, do not charge sales tax on personal property. However, it is important to note that this benefit is intended for individuals and companies who actually have a presence in that state
- Insurance—Hopefully you will never need to make a claim, but if you do, having the wrong insurance can create serious problems. Check into specialty insurers that have experience with rare and collectible cars. And be sure to understand what methodology is being used in a proposed policy. For example, in the event of a loss, will the insurer be reimbursing based on:

- Agreed value, which is the reimbursement value that the insurer and the policy holder have agreed upon in advance
- Actual cash value, which will be based on market value, less depreciation, at the time of the loss
- Replacement value, with no depreciation applied, is usually offered only for cars owned for less than three years
- Use—Obviously, cars can be driven on public roads, exposing them to risks. When building a collection, it is important to consider whether your cars will be handled as "value in use" or "value in place":
 - "Value in use" means you are going to drive, race, display and keep gas in some or all of your vehicles. There are distinct insurance needs as well as transportation costs if you are going to put your cars on the road, ship them to car shows and/or move them internationally
 - "Value in place" means you are keeping the cars in a safe place (such as a temperature-controlled warehouse) because you are treating them as an investment that you believe will appreciate in value. The wheels aren't going to turn.
 Of course, even if you never put them on the road, they need to be insured



Ownership Continued

- Securing and maintaining—Whether the cars are being used or warehoused, you obviously want to preserve their value. You'll need:
 - Security systems and knowledge of who has access to your garage
 - Storage with special requirements, including fire-suppression and climate control. Humidity is also a significant consideration, given that cars can rust, and rubber gaskets and hoses can become dry and brittle
 - Mechanics, either outsourced or in-house; skilled workers who understand how to move these kinds of cars, how to test the moving parts, keep the right fluids in and at the right levels over time—as well as special tools and parts. A vehicle that starts up and can be driven is generally a lot more valuable, regardless of the age, than a vehicle that no longer can

- Wealth planning—When cars are a significant asset, you can use them to:
 - Grow your wealth with tax-aware borrowing—Consider borrowing against these assets for purposes other than car collecting. For example, if you use loan proceeds solely for taxable investments, the interest on those loans may be fully tax-deductible
 - Preserve wealth—It is essential that you make plans for your estate and include the cars, keeping those plans up-to-date
- **Building or rotating your collection**—At one end of the spectrum are the collectors who simply add to their collections over time. At the other end are those who are constantly and actively buying and selling vehicles. Wherever you fall in this continuum, you'll want to make sure that your financial arrangements, insurance and estate planning all keep pace with your collection.



Disposition

Do you want the collection you built to be kept intact after you're gone? Or perhaps you don't care if the collection is split up? Maybe there are one or two cars that certain members of your family would like to keep? Each of these possible paths requires planning with a trusts and estates lawyer—and you have options.

- Maintaining the collection—Questions you'll want to answer include: Exactly how? (In a museum you create? As a donation to an existing museum? To one or more of your family members?) Will you also be providing sufficient funds for your inheritors to maintain the collection?
 - Private foundation—One strategy owners might take is to, while living, create a private foundation that they can donate their cars to. From there, the foundation can establish a museum that can house and display the collection. The tax benefits of this approach can be significant
- Selling the collection—Questions you'll want to answer include: Who will handle those sales most effectively? What will be the timing and the potential impact of this influx of capital to your estate on the division of your assets to heirs?

- Heirs—If you'd like most of the collection sold but one or two vehicles to go to select family members, questions will include: How will those cars be valued at the time of your passing, and do you want to compensate other heirs for the value of the cars only some will receive?
- Implementing your plans—No matter what you plan, you'll want to decide:
 - Who should communicate your intentions to heirs
 - Who will value your vehicles at the time of your death
 - Who will oversee the implementation of all your plans, and whether there will be enough liquidity in your estate to cover any estate taxes due, or if you need to purchase insurance now to ensure there will be

We can help



Some of the fun of owning great cars can be managing your collection to make sure you get the most of it and planning for its future. Your J.P. Morgan team and our firm's specialty asset professionals can help you make sure you keep the right questions and issues in mind—and have the right experts advising you along the way.

We also can make sure that the way you manage your car collection supports all the goals you have for for the near and long terms, for yourself and your loved ones.

Reach out to your J.P. Morgan team and let's talk cars.

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