



GTR Newsletter November 2020

President's Message: November 2020

In This Issue:

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- ***Scale Auto and Model Cars Updates***
- **Some Models That Were Just Goofy**
- **Vintage Kit Build: AMT VW Scirocco**

This month I went the SCCA National Championships called "The Runoffs". I'm a member of a team running in the Spec Miata class and our driver's name is Mike Gagliardo. We have been working together as a team for about four years now and have had some good results. It's a very competitive class and the race started 77 cars. Mike sold the car we had been using last fall. So, for this race he acquired a different car we would use. Our inexperience with this car really set us back and we were working on getting it dialed in all week. The result was that he finished 10th in the race. We were of course hoping for better and Mike was capable of it, but we just didn't have enough time with the car.

On the modeling side it has been a slow month from my perspective. As you have seen we have started on the research process to develop a kit of the 1971-73 Ford Mustang. How good the research process progresses has a great influence on how accurate the kit will turn out. I had made a trip to Ohio to photograph these Mustangs back in 2014. The owner had both a Boss 351 and the Mach 1 so I could compare them right there. Unfortunately, over the last few years the project had been moved out by other kit ideas. Then when we were hit by the Hobbico bankruptcy it appeared we had not saved the photographs from that first session. Thankfully, they were found. Then a couple of years ago I came across the car we used for the scanning. I always make it a point to get an owner contact details whenever I see a car that could be a future release. It has paid dividends more than once. As seen in the postings we then use this car to do 3D scans of the body. This will help ensure that the body shape is accurate. I'll never forget going to the GM design studio and presenting a 1/10 scale pattern model of a new Corvette to the lead designer. He said "it doesn't look right". We told him "it was cut directly from the GM CAD data. He said "OH! I guess it is OK then". That is a true story. But this is only the first step. The road to a fully finished model is a long one. More on that in future newsletters.

Ed Sexton

Grand Touring & Racing Auto Modelers Based in the Chicago, IL Northwest Suburbs 2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year 2007, 2008 & 2015 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year 2020 Meetings: Every 1st Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

Location alternates between member's homes and the Algonquin Township Building

Your current GTR Officers are:

President/Contact:	Ed Sexton	eagle48.1967@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Doug Fisher	kkfisher1@comcast.net

The GTR Newsletter is written and edited by Chuck Herrmann and Doug Fisher. If you or your club has news that you would like to pass on to the modeling community, send the info on to me digitally at kkfisher1@comcast.net and I will add it to this newsletter as a blurb or link. Show dates are subject to changes/cancelation as dates shown. 2020 club dues are due \$15 measly bucks, send check or give cash to me with your contact information. Thanks! Please make check out to "Doug Fisher" as we could not get a "club" named bank account)

MAILBAG

by Chuck Herrmann

Media

Scale Auto Shuts down Webpage, forums

Here is their October 9 announcement:

HELLO, CAR MODELING ENTHUSIASTS!

We have closed the Scale Auto website, but are working to incorporate more scale-car modeling content into FineScale Modeler.com. If you are a Scale Auto magazine subscriber, you can now access subscriber-only content on FineScale.com, where you will find car, truck and motorcycle kit reviews, along with how-to guides and building advice.

We also invite you to sign up for the FineScale Modeler Forum, where you can discuss your models and share your experiences.

Thank you for supporting Scale Auto over the years, and we hope to continue to see you at FineScale Modeler.

Speaking of *Fine Scale Modeler*, I received my first copy (to cover the last few issues of my Scale Auto subscription. I am sorry to report there is not much for car guys. Two photos of new kit releases and an ad on the back cover. It was the first issue since the change began, and online posts indicate it was decided quickly, so maybe the future will see more. But I am not optimistic. *FSM* would have to increase their page count significantly unless they cover less military modeling. That would disappoint everyone. Maybe the webpage will have more.

Model Cars Magazine Update

We can hope that this creates an opportunity for Model Cars to fill the gap. Here is their latest message.

MCM is Rebooting!

By now, just about everyone has learned of the demise of Scale Auto, its website, and its discussion forums. While it is in some senses the "end of an era", it is also a moment of truth for our beloved hobby.

I started writing for the former Scale Auto Enthusiast Magazine in 1982. In 1989, The late Gary Schmidt, who founded SAE, asked me to pen a column for a new sister publication to be called CAR MODELER knowing my penchant for replica stock modeling – which I was happy to do, called it STRICTLY STOCK, and lasted through the five years of that magazine's existence. STRICTLY STOCK then

moved to the pages of SAE, and I am still to this day grateful and appreciative for all the kind words and comments from our readership. That column, and my relationship with the magazine, ended with the "revamp" into SA without an E. From that moment on, I have been happily a part of MODEL CARS Magazine – and that relationship remains unbroken.

Gregg, like Gary Schmidt before him, understands that this hobby is not a solitary one – that there is a social aspect to it. Not everything is about "How to [fill in the blank]." Both men infused their magazines with that spirit, and fortunately for us, one of those magazines kept that spirit alive and kicking – and Gregg deserves major kudos for that. As my dear friend, the late John Slivoski, one of the founders of NNL East, once commented to me over a hamburger at Johnny Rockets, "Its not about the little plastic cars. It's about the friendships we make along the way BECAUSE of the little plastic cars!"

I've known Gregg for many years, and he has become one of my closest friends. I've known the trials and tribulations he has gone through and continues to go through, and I also know firsthand of his love for the hobby and his passion to keep MODEL CARS afloat despite all the obstacles he has faced. I am both proud and happy to stand with Gregg in the reboot of the magazine, and to help keep the promise of MODEL CARS being the best and most relevant publication devoted to our beloved hobby.

Its been said that nobody gets rich writing for a magazine. While that may be true, I look upon it as a labor of love, much the same as our hobby is a labor of love, as twelve years of STRICTLY STOCK was a labor of love for me. That said, I hope you will join me in welcoming MODEL CARS Magazine back into the fold, with the promise of it being better than ever, and to promote efforts to keep the brotherhood of our worldwide model car community alive and well.

Yours truly,

Larry Greenberg, Associate Editor, MODEL CARS MAGAZINE

FSM Contest Cars Annual

The 2019 GTR Summer NNL made the *Scale Auto Contest Annual*. Thanks to Doug Fisher for the text and to Gerry Paquette for taking the photos.



Will this be the last ever issue? No word yet, we can only hope they continue some of their special issues.

Industry News

MENG 1/12 Ford GT



Ford GT40 Mk. II '66
1:12 SCALE
MENG



From the MENG Facebook page:
MENG announced the plan of releasing model kits of the legendary Ford GT40 officially licensed by Ford Motor Company in 2019. Since then, we have received countless feedback from modellers and auto racing enthusiasts from all over the world. After the study and tests by the MENG team for almost one year, the first Ford GT40 product will be available soon. This first product, RS-002 Ford GT40 Mk.II '66, is a 1/12 scale model kit prepared for modellers. It has all the features of a classic plastic assembly model kit.



** This full interior model kit shows the beauty of precision and mechanical power of the Ford GT40 Mk.II.

Revell

Some new Rock&Roll Trucks



1/32 QUEEN Tour Truck - 50th Anniversary



1/32 Tour Truck "Motörhead"



1/24 VW Golf GTI
 Peoples Choice Winner - X-Ray

And their next round of releases.

Revell Revell USA, LLC –Nov/December 2020
 Distribution Announcement
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<p>80-1001 CHEVY S-10 CUSTOM TRUCK Scale: 1:24 Part Number: 801001 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine 	<p>80-1002 CHEVY S-10 CUSTOM TRUCK Scale: 1:24 Part Number: 801002 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine
<p>80-1003 BODY SUPER FLY Scale: 1:24 Part Number: 801003 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine 	<p>80-1004 PACKARD SEDAN Scale: 1:24 Part Number: 801004 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine

Revell Revell USA, LLC –Nov/December 2020
 Distribution Announcement
 Page 2 of 2

<p>80-1005 1/32 FORD VAN Scale: 1:32 Part Number: 801005 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine 	<p>80-1006 1/32 CHEVY VAN Scale: 1:32 Part Number: 801006 Ages: 12+ # of Features: 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a 1/2 scale engine • Detailed interior and exterior • Detailed engine and suspension • Detailed interior and exterior • Includes a 1/2 scale engine
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New Atlantis Car Kits

Coming up, New [#AtlantisKits](#) for 2021!

H1223 1/25 Mooneyes Dragster Made from classic Custom Car Parts

1/16 Green Elephant Chevy Vega Funny Car

H1440 Jungle Jim 71 Camaro Funny Car

1/24 Mack Log Hauler

1/25 1957 Chevy Nomad

1/12 Wright Cyclone Engine

1/24 Groovy Grader Tom Daniel

1/24 Son of Trouble Maker Chevy El Camino Tom Daniel

1/32 Snap Funny Cars

More kits to follow.

Salvino JR

On a recent Facebook streaming event, Salvino made several announcements.

- They are moving ahead with their Chrysler products, the 1973 Dodge Charger kit should be released by January 2021.
- Model Car Garage is working on several photoetch sets for various Salvino kits.
- They have a license agreement to issue kits of cars driven by A.J. Foyt.

Real World

Hamilton Sets all time F1 Win Record



With his win in the Portuguese Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton has surpassed Michael Schumacher as the all time Formula 1 race winner, with 92 Grand Prix victories. After becoming a Schumacher and Ferrari fan during his career this is something that I never thought I would see. I have not been the biggest Hamilton fan, especially since he has almost made F1 boring in recent years. But Hamilton, through his talent as well as picking the right teams in his career, is a deserving record holder. Congratulations, Lewis.



IPMS News

GTR is a proud member of the IPMS organization. GTR is a local chapter, in Region 5, of IPMS/USA. We need five current IPMS/USA members to remain a chapter. The annual chapter rechartering process has started. So if you are a current IPMS/USA member let Doug know your member number and expiration date, and remember to renew your IPMS/USA membership by October each year to make the renewal process smooth. We encourage those who have lapsed to renew their IPMS/USA membership, or if you have never been a member enroll now! Details can be found at their web site, www.ipmsusa.org

IPMS Calendar

2021 IPMS Region 5 Convention –*Date TBD*
hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL.

Aug 18-21 2021 IPMS USA Nationals: Las Vegas, NV
See the webpage at www.natslv2021.com
and also their Facebook page **2021 IPMS Nationals Las Vegas "Very Best of the West"**

2022 IPMS/USA Nationals Omaha, NE

2023 IPMS/USA Nationals San Marcos, TX

Cancelled 2020 IPMS Nats Calling for Virtual Entries/Photos

(from ipmsusa.org)

Fellow IPMS Members

Based on a member suggestion, we have created a page for members to submit images of their (planned) National Contest entries. This gives members an opportunity to show their hard work and creativity for models that would have been brought to San Marcos this year. You'll find the posting information in the Forums. You may submit images and info for any intended 2020 entry. This gallery is for display purposes only, no judging will take place. Submitting photos of a model does not impact its eligibility for any future contest, so bring it to Las Vegas in 2021!

Send photos of the models you had ready to take to San Marcos to the Journal!

Please include:

An image of the model

The kit manufacturer

Kit name

Scale

Your first and last name, your city and state, your country if you live outside the United States

Send to: artdirector@ipmsusa.org

GTR Update

The November meeting will be at Gary Ruzalski's house in Bartlett, IL. Contact Doug (email on front page) to RSVP and for details.

Eventually future regular monthly meetings will meet at the Algonquin Township Building. Any member who wants to bring up other ideas or suggestions for future meetings or activities, do so either at the meeting or contact us.

October GTR Meeting

The October meeting was held on Saturday October 3rd at VP Doug Fishers home in Warrenville, IL. Here are some Show & Tell photos.



Dave Green had a completed Tamiya Ford Mustang out of the box



Doug Fisher completed a Fujimi McLaren MP4 in Gulf colors using Studio 27 decals and using Krylon rattle can paint - Thanks to Dave Green.



Doug Fisher brought a Fujimi BMW Z4 in Good Smile racing livery. The decals were in two layers with the first completely covering the car.



Gary Ruzalski had a new Ford GT completed in stock decals. Great interior, but very difficult to see once completed.



Gary also had a work in progress '68 Charger chassis with full plug wiring.



Doug Fisher finally finished a Revel Germany Porsche 935 RSR in Jägermeister colors. This was the second body as the first was victim to lacquer paint mishap.



Dave Green had his altered wheelbase '65 Plymouth. Wheels were a little difficult and the engine seems to sit too low as it had the high velocity stack version. Still too cool.



James Palicka had a beautiful 1960 Impala painted with Courtney Orange nail polish. The pictures do not show how cool the color is.



James also had a 1961 AMT Model T high boy. The car was built from a single black and white photo only showing the back quarter.



Both Gary and Dave's Ford Mustang racecar in the same meeting.



The monthly offering from **Dave Green**, from his trolling through the local model stores. The Grumpy Vega is a fast-moving kit as most stores are out of stock.

Virtual Show & Tell

With meetings being cancelled or lightly attended we will use this space to show models at the meeting, show on our Facebook page or emailed to me for a virtual show and tell. One advantage is that we can show stuff from our out of town members.

Ron Spannraft AZ



"My latest build. It's a Tamiya 2009 Yamaha YZR-M1 built to represent the bike that Jorge Lorenzo rode to the 2015 MotoGP World Championship. The conversion used the Tamiya 2009 Yamaha YZR-M1 front fork detail set and the K's Workshop 2015 Yamaha YZR-M1 Transkit."

From Facebook we have:

Roy Sorenson CA



"Some shots of my box stock FordGT..."



Robert Bernahl IN



"DONE!!!! 1932 Ford Dan Fink Speedwagon modified and named "Surf Krate" the name and inspiration was from a Hot Wheels car but that's where their similarities end. Frame is Z'd and C notched, front suspension is lowered, the body is channeled over frame and flush with bottom. Hood and fenders removed. Engine is a 427 S.O.H.C. (single over head cam) with twin superchargers mated to a 4-speed. Exhaust is hand formed solder wire. Big honking slicks out back provide traction. Paint is 1970 Ford Grabbber Blue with a Ferrari tan leather interior (to accent the wood paneling on the exterior) the interior is all scratch built tuck n' roll to match the seats from my parts bins. Since the cars

completion I look it over and go "what was I thinking!?!?!? Can this thing even handle the power it's capable of?!?"



"First stage of primer on the '51 Belair, and oh man it needs more bondo."



"Also on 2nd stage of bondo on the '88 Beretta (the special roof spoiler I fabricated)."

Gerry Paquette WA



"Back around 2010, Fiat released a Ferrari tribute version of its 500 Abarth. I guess, the ultimate Abarth version. Fujimi released a version of it back in 2010. I wound up getting one, along with the Hobby Design detail set for it. It has languished on the shelf for some time, but I recently pulled it out, thinking this would be a nice, basic build. I have gotten into the mode of wanting to do more unique builds and consider this to be such.

The kit is curbside, and I have no notion to do otherwise. As is typical with Fujimi in later models, the body and interior are basic 500 Abarth, thus requiring some "tweaking". Fortunately, the Hobby Design detail has the pieces to make the corrections.

Interiors are black, with aluminum floor panels (Thank you Hobby Design), ala some Ferrari special models. Also, a paddle shift is included with transmission buttons (Thank you again Hobby Design). I added additional interior detail, including seat belts. A technique I use, at times,

for shoulder belts is to attach them to a clear plastic extension that allows me to position them on the B-pillar. I keep the clear plastic the same width as the belt, so it blends in.

The body needs work as the body side moldings need to be sanded off before the 695 body mods can be attached. I am planning to do this in Italian Red and keep a Euro-Spec car."



"A&N Model Trucks 1/24 scale 2018 Dodge Power Wagon Pickup Power Wagon"



Chuck Herrmann



My latest completed build is the Heller Renault 4CV pie, a 1955 Paris, France police car.



During this Corona thing I have been going through some of my stash, this is the third completion of something initially started over 15 years ago. Review article next issue.



"Also some progress on the NuNu Lancia rally car. This tooling was previously released under the Beemax label. A bit more flash and clean up required than the NuNu Audi which still needs to get wrapped up."

High Desert Modeler



By Chuck Herrmann Albuquerque NM

Last month I wrote about the NASCAR model collection at the Albuquerque Wheels Museum which I am restoring and cataloging. Many of the models were the Revell/Monogram kits from the late 80s into the 1990s. There are some older ones that stand out to me, so I thought I would describe the process I use to restore or freshen up the olds kits to go back into the display cases.

One of the kits that I just thought looked pretty neat was this Copenhagen Monte Carlo. As I was really getting back into following racing AJ Foyt was running the red and black Copenhagen sponsorship, and I had built several kits in those markings.



This is the 1/25 MPC kit of a car that ran in 14 races driven by former NASCAR champ Benny Parsons (1972). The tooling was used for several different versions. Here are the kit decals.



As I am restoring these models the most common issues besides dirt are the windows coming loose, which I assume is due to the strength of white glue used to hold clear parts, and the wheels coming off.



On the ones that are a little older such as this one, the rubber seems to have actually reacted to the plastic rims. They have shrunk in diameter and pushed off the rims. Also they have become very hard. They feel more like resin than vinyl.



Usually you can get these off without too much problem. I sand off the black residue that has attached itself to the rim. Then I open up the diameter of the tire with a hobby knife and press them back on. In this case the Goodyear decal markings had a lot of silvering. I don't know if that was age or if it was always there. I tried to scrape off the most visible areas between the letters and wing foot logo, then applied a new coat of flat clear. It looked a bit better, not perfect. I touched up the gold paint on the wheels, then picked out the lug nuts with silver, and the open slots with flat black.



The whole car was dusted, cleaned and polished. This one was clear coated over the decals so cleaning does not damage them. The white has become a bit yellow due to the clear paint aging. The clear windows were cleaned and polished then reglued in place.



The black and white paint scheme, along with the red interior makes for a distinctive paint scheme.



The model is now ready to return to the display case. Still a lot more to do!

Some Models That Were Just Goofy

By Dave Roeder St Louis MO

I build a lot of model cars and trucks and occasionally I just launch into a building frenzy fueled by boredom, alcohol, a contest theme class, or just plain not liking the model as it came from the box. This article will present some of the results of the conditions listed above.



1935 Bentley Brooklands Aero Heller 1/24th scale

I bought this model at a swap meet intending to build it up box stock. When I opened it up I found that the kit was missing the radiator. I built the chassis engine and body, then set it aside for about twenty years. Covid -19 hit and I was going through my unfinished kits and found this one in very dusty condition. It was sort of like a "barn find" as a model car. I decided to build it up with a 1934 Ford truck radiator and then decided to stretch the hood to cover the front mounted blower. As soon as I began, things started to go bad. The plastic was very brittle and the first thing to go was the truss rods under the frame. I replaced them with 1/4 X .060" Styrene. Numerous other details broke off during the construction and I ended up gluing the wheels in place when two of the axles broke off at the hubs. One front spindle broke off so I super glued it back in place. I made a paper pattern for the long hood, then cut it from .010" sheet steel. I formed it to fit, then added a rib down the top. After much more screwing around covering the open part of the passenger compartment, I painted it British green which did not match the previous shade of that color. I decided to call it a 1935 Bentley Brooklands Aero with the back story that it was used to create a new top speed record for the very truck like stodgy Bentley.

1935 Bentley Brooklands Aero with covered Passenger Compartment



1932 Ford Stake Bed "Grapes of Wrath" – The Joad family ride to California

This was my first attempt at building a weathered truck. Back in the day I was stuffing the 392 early Chrysler Hemi into everything I built. I thought I would try something different and stuffed this truck with an early 6 cylinder Chevy. Then I built a wood bed using balsa wood and sheet styrene. The front wheels were from my parts box and may have been from a 1930's Ford but I am not sure. The rear wheels are AMT that I cut the centers out and added the axle stubs to make the appearance of missing hub caps. Since the cab was already painted Brown Testors enamel, I just started weathering it with Floquil dust and rust. I was never really happy with it and never entered it in a contest.

1968 London Taxi – 1/23rd scale



I bought this kit thinking it was 1/24th scale. I was going to build it up as a gasser with a small block Chevy. When I opened the box it looked really large, and so I went on the internet and did some research. I found the specs for these taxis and checked the wheelbase and track against the model. It scaled out as a 1/23rd scale vehicle. I guess those crazy Chinese decided to just make it whatever fit in the box. I have entered it in the large scale class at contests, but it never wins anything and I just end up carrying around to those contests where I want to have something for the large scale class. I should have painted it RED.

1968 Fordolet CRAZY 8 Gasser?????



One contest I enter every year has a theme class and one year it was Crazy Eights. The

class was supposed to center on eight cylinder cars of the Hot Rod/Street Rod type. I took a different approach and decided to build this monstrosity with eight V-8 engines. I started by cutting up an old 1954 Chevy Gasser, then arranging eight Ford engines. I allowed space between each set of two for radiators, connecting gear transfer cases, short drive shafts and motor mounts. I had scrounged up four flatheads and four 289 small block Ford engines. The resulting frame had to be made from brass rectangular tubing for strength. This was a hit at the contest and won first place in the theme class.



1928 Oldsmobile Gasser # 28 B/G

I had an extra resin cast Olds engine and a Heller 1928 Citroen Touring car kit that were just laying around and so I decided to build a Gasser touring car. This was never a body style used for gas class cars. I built it up to NHRA 1963 rules with 10" slicks and full street equipment. I call it an Oldsmobile because who can tell the difference? It never won any trophies, but I know it got a lot of curious looks.



1933 Cadillac Panel truck – Heimberg Casket Company

I bought this Cadillac Kit to get the V-16 Engine, then thought why not build it up stock? I quickly gave up on that and started building a panel truck out of it. I made the decals. I had entered it in light commercial class at a contest in Kansas and a guy came up to me and told me he was a funeral director and that his family had similar cars back in the 1930's. He wanted to know if I had built any Hearses.



1953 Chevy delivery truck – Cordoba Argentina

I travelled around the world working as an International sales manager and noticed a lot of

these trucks in and around Cordoba and Mendoza, Argentina. Flete means For Hire and Juan Morales is from Junin. They were used in the morning to haul workers from the city out to the vegetable farms. Then they hauled vegetables in to the city all day. At night they would haul the workers back to the collection point in the city. It was sort of like a combination bus service and freight transport company. I built the model using a resin cast three window cab and stretched the frame to a one ton chassis. The cargo box is scratch built. It has never won any awards (probably because it is grey and foreign) but I did get to use up the resin cast cab.



1959 Junk Yard Dog Stake Bed

A deep dive into the spare parts box yielded this mashup of early 50's parts. I was having a slump and wanted to build something from scratch that was not a custom or a drag car. I had this old 1937 Chevy body and a 1955 Chevy convertible chassis. I used the 1949 Ford hood and grill, then went into scratch building mode to create this junk yard stake bed. The junk yard is in Montana, so they needed a full cab with heater, wiper and door glass. Big towing hooks on the bumpers are for extracting it from the mud.



1959 Chrysler Crown Imperial Convertible

I entered this car in a theme class that was "Movie Cars". It was in "where the boys are" starring Annette Funicello.

It never won anything and is the least attractive model I have ever built.

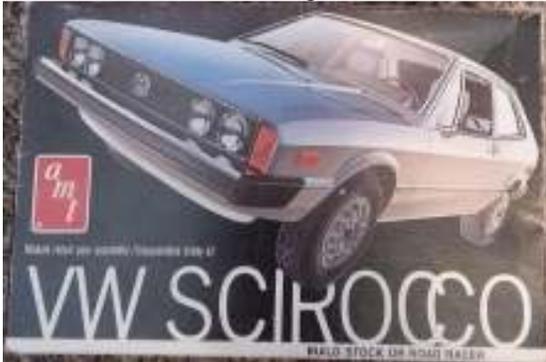
Vintage Kit Review: AMT VW Scirocco



Description: VW Scirocco

Manufacturer: AMT **Scale** 1/25 **Kit** H1317
by Chuck Herrmann

This kit was purchased at a club auction in 1996. I probably started it soon thereafter. I was interested because it was a VW kit I did not have. And it featured the option to build an IMSA style road racer. When my interest in racing and in modeling was rekindled in the mid 80s, the IMSA GT racing classes featured the crazy wide fender extension to allow wide racing tires to fit on GT cars. Some of these were pretty outlandish. Like this kit, not made to depict a real car but rather characteristic of cars running at the time.



AMT first issued this kit in 1979. Somewhat out of the usual subject matter range for AMT, at the time they were owned by Lesney, the English company famous for Matchbox cars.



The box indicates that Lesney AMT was located in Baltimore, MD at the time. So that probably explains the subject. This kit has been reissued several times since, both under the AMT and the Matchbox label.



The kit is typical for these era AMT sports car kits, with a very finicky fit of lots of rather small pieces and some vague attachment points. It is a full detail kit, but the chassis features a lot of molded in detail and the suspension is pretty basic. And the engine is not well detailed, and the front wheel drive is poorly designed. So right away I decided to build it curbside, with some underside skid plates to hide the "change" to a larger engine and rear wheel drive.



The kit features lots of race parts, predominately the large front end with front spoiler and massive IMSA style fender flares. The kit does provide racing wheels, but they are too small to fill the larger wheel wells. And the kit tires were very small; they are for the stock street Scirocco. So I found some bigger tires and some spoke wheels. These mounted via a metal axle, so filled in the chassis as needed (leaving the engine out for future use) and drilled holes to run the axles through. Not the most realistic way but once the skid plate is mounted it is fine for a curbside build.

A big part of the build was attaching the flares to the fenders. As usual with these type of pieces the fit is pretty vague. There were also some odd openings that needed to be filled. So lots of liquid glue was used to try to mold the parts together then lots of body putty. At the time I was using the cheap Testors body putty, and this is not usually very strong. So it cracked easily during sanding and filing. There were several sessions of prep and primer, then redoing the putty and sanding then finding fault and redoing it over. There were several times that I got frustrated, and/or had to wait for everything to dry, which saw things put back in the box for months, or years at a time. To complicate things the kit is molded in bright red plastic so getting that covered was a chore. Eventually I got it decent and primed with probably some Testors rattle can enamel primer. Then it got put back

into the box and sat, until it was packed up for my big move out west.



Fast forward to earlier this summer, when it made it to the top of a pile of started stuff. By now the filler and primer was thoroughly dry, and to my surprise the cheap filler was holding up well. So I figured I should finally finish it. I hot the body with Dupliclor White automotive primer. For the color I used some Testors enamel Camo Gray I picked up at Hobby Lobby on closeout, covered by Testors Extreme Lacquer Wet Look Clear. After polishing it out it came out okay.



For the interior I had removed the back seat and used sheet stock to fill it in and made smooth door handles to do a striped out race car interior. For the roll cage I believe I used the one from the kit (hey, it was probably started 15-20 years ago, hard to remember). I used some foil tape for the floor pan. The shifter and extinguisher were from the spares box. The dash was simplified to remove some trim and street instruments. The interior bucket was shot with white primer. I used paper seat belts (photocopy of decal sheet).



Underneath I made a skid plate from sheet stock, painted it aluminum. I added a cover in the

rear to hide the axle going through the spare tire compartment, good enough for a curbside. The chassis was shot with Walmart Flat Black. The kit supplied exhausts were cut to fit.



For the body I felt the body need a large rear spoiler to balance out the bigger front end. For some reason there was none in the kit. I found a wing in the spares box and adapted it to fit. Then I found a rear window louver that fit without much work. These were sprayed flat black.



The kit decals looked shot, and some were missing. Ultimately I found they would work, see the orange and black stripe in back and the windshield. But overall they looked pretty lame. So I found some numbers and sponsors in my decal stash to depict a club racer version.



So after a long journey in time and miles, this racing VW finally has been completed. This kit is not especially good, I would not build another one. But it came out okay for a shelf model. And it is one more kit off the started but unfinished pile.





2020 Event Calendar

With all the disruption and uncertainty caused by the Corona virus crisis, all dates are of course tentative. Please check directly with the event hosts as events are being rescheduled or canceled daily. I will update as I am informed of changes, also I will share the notices on the GTR Facebook page.

We were sorry to see the Winnebago contest get cancelled after much planning and high hopes. With the latest virus results some 2021 shows are being cancelled.

Oct 25 US Grand Prix **CANCELLED**
Circuit of the Americas, Austin TX

Oct 31 **Cancelled** Winnebago Area Model Classic
Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh WI
WAMclassic@gmail.com

Nov 1 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Postponed May 17 **now Nov 1** NNL North Contest
Knights of Columbus Hall, Bloomington, MN
www.NNLNORTH.com

Postponed. March 21 **now November 14** Sebring
12 Hours IMSA
Sebring Intl Raceway, Sebring FL

Nov 14 **Cancelled** Southern NNL Atlanta
acme-ipms.com

Nov 7 **Cancelled** IPMS/Butch O'Hare Contest & Swap

Nov 15 **Cancelled** Detroit NNL
The Macomb Community College informed The Detroit Area Auto Modelers show has been canceled..

Dec 6 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Show
Waukesha Exposition Center
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Dec 6 **Cancelled** Tinley Park Holiday Toy Show
Tingley Park HS, Tingley Park IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

If any readers wish their shows or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to GTR.



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