

ContestCars²⁰²³

Summer 2022 - Summer 2023

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To replicate Captain America's World War II two-wheeler, Matt Minnichsoffer built Italeri's 1/9 scale 1942 Harley-Davidson WLA out of the box and propped a 3D-printed shield next to it. He painted the bike and shield with Vallejo acrylics and used pastels and metallic dry-brushing for weathering.



"This model depicts a Bronco my father rebuilt in the late '70s," says Dean Kuitunen. He removed moldings and newer side markers from the 1/25 scale Revell kit, added a modified frame and a plow from a Revell GMC pickup.



To get an early-'60s custom, Jeremy Smallbeck shaved the door handles and emblems from an AMT 1/25 scale 1953 Ford pickup before lowering the body. He set it rolling on AMT Parts Pack wheels and tires, painted it candy green, and applied pin striping.



Edward St. Denis combined 1/72 scale kits from RPM for a U.S. Army Mack AC truck hauling a Wisconsin National Guard 6-ton tank in 1927. He improved the tank with Steelworks resin tracks and detailed both vehicles with styrene and wire before painting.



Cal Wood added custom decals to a 1/43 scale Southern Cross Miniatures kit to make Jim Jeffords' unusual Maserati Birdcage from the 1960 Lacuna Seca race. He wired the battery and airbrushed the car with Alclad II Aluminium over dark blue.

■ ACME Southern Nationals

SMYRNA, GEORGIA ■ NOVEMBER 5, 2022 ■ BY TOM VALENTA



Racing fans growing up in the Northeast are accustomed to seeing big-block, super-modified racers like the one created by Lance Spangle of Indianapolis, Indiana. Lance's '80s-inspired Oswego, New York, open-wheel monster features a scratchbuilt cage, bodywork, and suspension and includes a nestled offset between the frame rails for the injected, big-block Chevy engine.



Josh McCall arrived from Port Richie, Florida, with his 1962 Pontiac Catalina known as *Catalina Wine Mixer*. This Poncho features a multilayer, Japanese-inspired, custom paint scheme while rolling on a lowered suspension and 13-inch, lowrider wheels.



The Tamiya 2020 Mustang GT4 kit is a gem to build, and Dylan Thomas took his model to the next level with Splash Paints Volt Green and aftermarket Volt and carbon-fiber decals. Dylan added all the wires and hoses needed for a 1/1 car's interior and handmade the seat belts.



Finding an article on this 1968 Chevrolet El Camino in an old copy of *Hot Rod* magazine inspired Andrew Graf of Arnold, Missouri. To build a replica of the cover car, he began with an out-of-the-box build of an AMT '68 El Camino and gave it a '70s, lifted-rear suspension. Andrew used various shades of HOK paints and took four weeks to replicate the iconic masterpiece.



Updating the iconic 1965 GTO into the modern age was the idea behind Rick Wykoff's Pontiac, with the addition of a modern LS3 engine, Tri-Power fuel injection, and a set of modern, one-off, 3D-printed wheels and tires. The Porsche turquoise Poncho took around four months of steady work to complete.



Ford should consider building a version of this Mustang touring car that Sam Kelly brought to the show. Combining a Mustang snap kit with a wide body and Dodge Magnum roof, Sam has created a version of the Mustang that would storm the wagon market.



Robert Hattersley's love of Mopar monster trucks inspired him to create his dream car crusher. Starting with a monster-truck chassis from his spares box, he grafted an MPC 1978 Dodge pickup body on top and coated it with Tamiya Orange and Black paint. The base shows a defeated Chevy crushed beneath the Dodge's heavy wheels.



Dennis Matthews knows how to build them low and slow. His 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air features a lowered suspension with the proper rolling stock, an LS engine, and smooth-as-glass candy root beer paint.



Rob Smorey's "Boss 302" Ford F-100 pickup features a transplanted powertrain from a Revell Boss Mustang, a lowered suspension with custom rolling stock, and a two-tone Tamiya Racing Yellow and White paint scheme with the iconic Boss 302 stripe decals.



"Cruising the USA in my Chevrolet!" Kenny Shores built his sunset gold, 1963 Chevy II wagon box stock and scratchbuilt the teardrop trailer. Both are ready to hit the highway for many adventures.

■ Mad City Modelers

MADISON, WISCONSIN ■ MARCH 4, 2023 ■ BY KENDRA BELL, TIM KIDWELL, AND AARON SKINNER



Michael Gosda modified a Revell 1/32 scale Messerschmitt Bf 109 to turn it into a dieselpunk doom racer. He added Hummer wheels, brush-painted the racer with acrylics, and weathered it with acrylic washes to give it hard-used appearance.



This Lindberg 1/25 scale dirt modified racer marked for Parnelli Jones came from Cal Wood, who modified it with parts from other kits, including an engine from an AMT 1925 Double 'T' Lincoln. He custom-mixed the paint and designed the decals.



Vic Rood's AMT 1/25 scale 1936 Ford five-window coupe street rod has no shortage of modifications. He wired the motor and added a 1953 flathead V8, dual Stromberg 97 carbs, bomber seats, a 1937 Ford grille, and resin wheels and tires.



Tony Hartjes built a Revell 1/25 scale 1959 Chevy Impala hardtop as a custom. He modified it with scratchbuilt parts, including a tuck-and-roll interior with chrome wire trim, CAD-designed air filters, a 1000-watt amplifier, and custom-sculpted taillights. Tony also decked the hood and smoothed the roof.



Rick Buikema kitbashed five kits into this 1/25 scale truck he calls *Scrappy-Doo*. He painted the pickup with enamel spray paint and weathered it with acrylics to make it look like his buddy's mud truck "with all different, rust-free panels."



Paul Johnston built a Hasegawa 1/24 scale 2000 Ford Focus WRC and added 3D-printed hood pins and red ribbon for the seat belts. He masked the window trim with Parafilm M and airbrushed it and other small parts. He used Tamiya Pure White from a spray can for the main body.



A big Le Mans race car fan, Mike Klessig added Studio 27 decals and Renaissance mirrors to his Tamiya 1/24 scale '82 Le Mans-winning Porsche 956. He painted the model Tamiya Pure White before masking and airbrushing Tamiya Blue for the sides.



Inspired by a Hot Wheels car, Matt Key turned an AMT 1/24 scale '66 Nova pro street into this asphalt aggressor. He added Detail Master wires, fuel lines, and plumbing. Matt painted with Tamiya Orange lacquer and Tamiya Flat Black over Tamiya primer.



Fourteen-year-old Deven Lehst built this cool Revell 1/25 scale 1970 Plymouth 'Cuda AAR out of the box. He primed the car black, airbrushed two coats of water-based, custom-mixed paint, and finished it off with two coats of clear. Nicely done!



Another entry on the Juniors table was this AMT 1/25 *Batman* Batmobile (1989 movie version) Kaiden Hartjes built. He painted with Testors and Mar-Hyde paints and weathered with pigments to make a Batmobile after a day of crime fighting.

■ Showdown



Built box stock, Gary Curry tabled an Aoshima 1/24 scale LB Works Lamborghini Huracan. He primed and topped off his model with Scale Finishes paint.



This is Justin Hart's Revell 1/25 scale 1969 Yenko Nova made with a C1 restomod transkit. He wired and plumbed the engine and added 3D-printed wheels, mirrors, and an air cleaner. Justin primed with black Mr. Surfacer 1500, sprayed a gray base coat, and finished with House of Kolor Apple Red and Gravity Spain 2K gloss clear.



Steve Boutte scratchbuilt many of the details for his AMT 1/25 scale 1949 Ford coupe. He custom-mixed Ford Anti-establish Mint for the body and used Testors acrylic colors for the interior.



Wow! The Krylon Mint Green paint job on Jay Henning's Revell 1/25 scale '49 Mercury with added side trim really stands out. He painted directly from the spray can and followed with a flat clear for a 1950s Barris custom look.



Stephen Miller built his Testors (Italeri) 1/24 scale 1962 Ferrari GTO mostly out of the box, replacing the tires and wheels with ones from the Fujimi Enthusiast Series Ferrari model. He painted it Tamiya Italian Red lacquer from a spray can over polished plastic.



Alvis Barrington based his primarily scratchbuilt model on a Tamiya 1/10 scale *Midnight Pumpkin* radio-control car. He used Krylon enamels to paint and pastels to weather the model.

■ HeritageCon

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA ■ MARCH 26, 2023 ■ BY TIM KIDWELL AND AARON SKINNER



Head to the lake in style! Joe Camilleri's matched car and boat wear Mr. Clear Color Clear Orange over Tamiya Gold, topped by Gravity 2K clear. Both the '56 Chevy Del Ray and the Hemi Hydro are Revell 1/25 scale kits dressed up with Gofer wiring and connected by a scratchbuilt trailer hitch on the car.



For a mid-'60s drag truck, Mike Jones revved up an AMT 1/25 scale 1960 Chevrolet Apache with a detailed 409 powerplant from a '62 Bel Air and installed parts-box wheels and tires. The candy finish is enamel clear red over silver.



For a 1980s Ontario snowplow, Bob Esplin thinned the bodywork on a Revell 1/24 scale GMC pickup, ripped the seats, included period-correct containers and license plates, and scratchbuilt a snow shovel and sandbag. He used Vallejo acrylics, post-shaded, and weathered with oils, enamels, and Vallejo Mecha Colors.



Gary Deans's 1965 Ford Mustang A/FX dragster started as a 1/18 scale diecast. He stripped it down, replaced or modified almost every part, including the roll cage, shifter, and tachometer, raised the suspension, and plumbed and wired the engine. He made and added decals to match the car driven by Gas Ronda.



A fan of Gulf racing colors, David "Blappy" Guertin naturally finished his Moebius Models 1/25 scale '71 Ranger Ford Ranger XLT with Zero lacquers and combined aftermarket and custom decals. The sharp pickup rolls on 3D-printed rims designed by Blappy himself.

▪ Roscoe Turner



Model Trailways' 1/12 scale 1869 Allerton Steam Pumper builds from wood, white metal, photo-etched brass and steel, and more. Jay Shively's only modification was to change the brake lever from the right to the left. He painted the horse-drawn fire engine with spray cans.



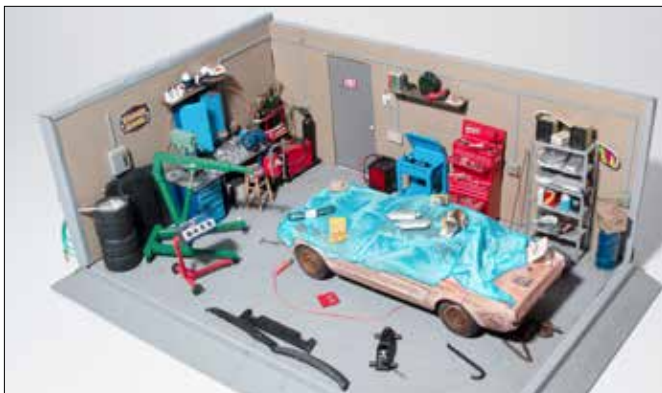
"Love the lowriders!" Rod Beeman says. He customized an AMT 1/25 scale 1955 Chevy Nomad with wheels from Pegasus, a Parts by Parks wire kit, and a scratchbuilt interior before applying the stunning candy red paint job. According to Rod, there are about 40 layers of paint on the car, he sharedays.



Vroom! Christopher Mayton, 10, did an excellent job on this MPC 1/25 scale 1984 Corvette, painting it with Tamiya Mica Red from a spray can.



Tim LaCapra's only addition to his Tamiya 1/24 scale Nissan Z was putting felt-sheet carpet inside. He painted the sports car with Tamiya lacquers for everything but the body, which was finished with Splash Paints colors.



"A coworker mentioned to me that he wanted to restore a Mustang," Jeff Myers said about his diorama, *Chris' Dream Garage*. "I ran with it after that." He used parts from Estes, AMT, Scale Ltd., Mini Décor, and more, adding details until it looked just right. He painted the scene mostly with Tamiya colors, either from a spray can or hand-brushed.



Brian Acker cut the cowl on a Tamiya 1/20 scale 1993 Lola T93/00 Ford to display the engine, sprayed it with MR Paint Gloss Black, and added aftermarket decals to mark it as A.J. Foyt's last Indy 500 car. The legendary driver retired before the race but he drove the car at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway one final time in practice.



Tom Beck improved Revell's 1937 Ford pickup by wiring and plumbing the engine, adding radiator supports, opening the hood, dressing up the bed with basswood and aluminum strips, supporting the tailgate with a jewelry chain, and installing balsa stake sides to the bed. He painted the sharp hauler with Tamiya Gloss Green and Testors Gloss Black before hand-polishing.



While J.R. Pope built Minicraft's 1/16 scale 1931 Ford Model A pickup mostly box-stock – he did detail the rear with a real-wood bed and stakes. After painting his pickup Tamiya Flat Gray and Black from spray cans, he applied decals to mark it as a Miller Brewing delivery truck.



Chuck Poi added fuel and vacuum lines and wired and plumbed the engine in a Revell 1/25 scale 1957 Ford to replicate a car at the Indiana State Police Museum where he works. After spraying the body with Tamiya Gloss Black, he applied homemade decals for the ISP livery.



For a 1960 Studebaker Lark gasser, Dennis Caudell kitbashed a resin body from MCW with parts from AMT's 1/25 scale Chevy II Rat Packer and scratchbuilt aluminum moon tank, brakes, aluminum-tube injector tubes for the 427 Chevy powerplant, and a Corvette steering wheel. He painted the two-tone body with decanted Tamiya spray-can lacquer applied with a Paasche single-action airbrush.



Mike Hylton raced into the show with this terrific 1/24 scale 1915 Mercedes 4.5-liter Indy 500 winner built from a Fernando Pinto kit. He painted the pioneering race car with Tamiya colors.



To build a 1950s-style hot rod, Scott Bischoff cut open the trunk of a Revell 1/25 scale 1930 Ford Model A five-window coupe and powered it with a modified flathead V8 with dual overhead cams like those that ran at the 1951 Indy 500 in the Bob Estes Special. He sourced the block, carbs, and air filters from his spares box and scratchbuilt the rest of the engine.

■ NNL North



The dreamy, near-periwinkle color on this 1953 Ford convertible restomod is a custom mix by Randy Metts. He lowered the front end on a Lindberg kit with Shelby Cobra suspension and steering, nestled a '70 Mustang rear frame in the back, and introduced a Mustang 302 and AOD transmission to the party for a little added fun.



Stately and elegant, Steve Guthmiller's AMT 1/25 scale 1960 Mercury Parklane benefits from just a few detail parts. The black and red were applied directly from the Dupli-Color spray cans over the primer. The body was then clear-coated and polished.



An unusual truck with its extended front end, the Krupp Titan SWL 80 had a straight six-cylinder, two-stroke engine filling that real estate. Robert Hyman built the Revell Germany 1/24 scale kit box stock and painted it Testors Light Blue, Semigloss Black, Silver, Gloss Red, and Khaki, all with a Paasche airbrush.



This devilishly handsome 1959 Chevy El Camino comes from Adam Falk. He added louvers to the hood, lowered the body, and made a blanket seat cover for the interior. The wheels, tires, and custom exhaust came from Modelhaus. For the candy effect, he painted the roof Testors White Lightning and Tamiya Red and Smoke.

Tom Thore had an impressive display of Rat Fink models at NNL North, and here's his original Revell 1/25 scale Ed Roth Tweedy Pie with Boss Fink – a kit that has never been reissued! He used spray paint on the body and frame and brush-painted the Ed Roth monster figure.



Valereigh Chatelain, 5, arrived with her Revell 1/25 scale '34 Ford highboy. Hand-painted with craft acrylics, the rainbow pattern assures it's a "really fast car." The custom license plate says FLWR PWR, and, appropriately, a bright yellow and orange flower graces this hot rod's roof.



This model depicts the Stu Hilborn streamlined Southern California Timing Association dry-lakes car that was the first to exceed 150 mph in 1948. Tim Graf scratchbuilt this replica in its entirety.



Brady Wallskog built one of his dream cars, a tuned 1970 Nissan Skyline 2000 GTR. He began with a Tamiya 1/24 scale kit, detailed the engine, and slid Aoshima wheels under the four corners. Tamiya primer and Splash Paints Lime Green brought it to life, and Brady capped it with Mr. Hobby Super Clear.



Longtime *Scale Auto* contributor Rod Maskiw returned to NNL North with this irresistible 1/25 scale 1955 Chevy Bel Air custom. There is a Revell kit in there, but Rod opened and hinged the doors, hood, and trunk, detailed the engine, added a C4 Corvette intake, and designed and scratchbuilt the interior door cards and seat inserts. He finished the car with Bob's Paint Copper and Black under Candy Root Beer topcoats.