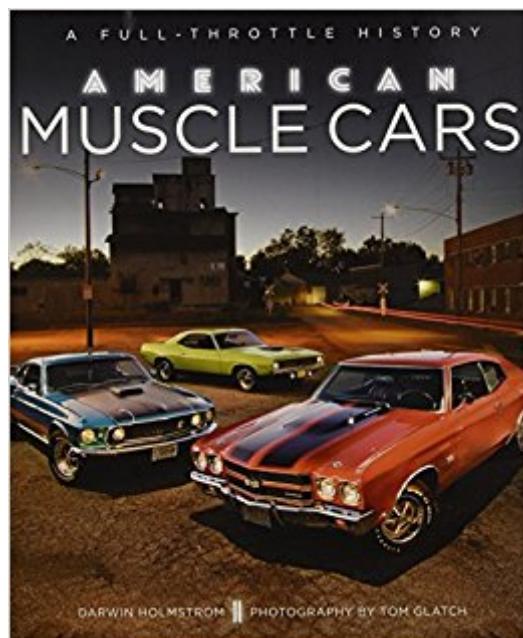


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American Muscle Cars: A Full-Throttle History



Synopsis

This is the muscle car history to own--a richly illustrated chronicle of America's greatest high-performance cars, told from their 1960s beginning through the present day! In the 1960s, three incendiary ingredients--developing V-8 engine technology, a culture consumed by the need for speed, and 75 million baby boomers entering the auto market--exploded in the form of the factory muscle car. The resulting vehicles, brutal machines unlike any the world had seen before or will ever see again, defined the sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll generation. American Muscle Cars chronicles this tumultuous period of American history through the primary tool Americans use to define themselves: their automobiles. From the street-racing hot rod culture that emerged following World War II through the new breed of muscle cars still emerging from Detroit today, this book brings to life the history of the American muscle car. When Pontiac's chief engineer, John Z. DeLorean, and his team bolted a big-inch engine into the division's intermediate chassis, they immediately invented the classic muscle car. In those 20 minutes it took Bill Collins and Russ Gee to bolt a 389 ci V-8 engine into a Tempest chassis they created the prototype for Pontiac's GTO--and changed the course of automotive history. From that moment on, American performance cars would never be the same. American Muscle Cars tells the story of the most desirable cars ever to come out of Detroit. It's a story of flat-out insanity told at full throttle and illustrated with beautiful photography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"American Muscle Cars is a fantastic book, sized perfectly for any coffee table. The writing is

informative yet thrillingly engaging, creating an extremely rare occurrence: a coffee-table book that is still fun to read straight through. Holmstrom is often irreverent (note the "clackers" use mentioned above), but is so in a charming, funny way which allows him to simply say what he means?"the best example is when describing what post-WWII babies wanted from their cars: sex appeal. Overall, American Muscle Cars is a well-written, well-laid-out, entertaining read that would be a joyful addition to any auto enthusiasts' book collection." - TheNewsWheel.com "Author Darwin Holmstrom expertly tells the story in an informative and interesting way that make this book fun to read.

Darwin's expertise is drawn from his experience of having written, co-written, or contributed to over thirty books with car or motorcycle subjects. The excellent text is matched with 260 color and 55 black and white photos. Dozens of original factory photos are complimented by the work of well-known automotive photographer Tom Glatch. Glatch's large, high quality photos bring these colorful muscle cars to life - Examiner.com"Not just another coffee-table picture book, this is a thorough, well-researched, multi-brand history of American performance - Muscle Car

Review"Holmstrom and Glatch churn up the memories in their book with some great factory archive information with no shortage of photographs - San Diego Union Tribune"American Muscle Cars is a fantastic book, sized perfectly for any coffee table. The writing is informative yet thrillingly engaging, creating an extremely rare occurrence: a coffee-table book that is still fun to read straight through. Holmstrom is often irreverent (note the "clackers" use mentioned above), but is so in a charming, funny way which allows him to simply say what he meansA??,Â??the best example is when describing what post-WWII babies wanted from their cars: sex appeal. Overall, American Muscle Cars is a well-written, well-laid-out, entertaining read that would be a joyful addition to any auto enthusiasts' book collection - TheNewsWheel.com"Auto enthusiast Darwin Holmstrom says that when he was growing up in the Midwest, boys his age were just as interested in muscle cars - sporty models with powerful engines - as they were in girls. Now 52, he laments the demise of the vehicles. His new book "American Muscle Cars" (Motorbooks, \$50), offers a history, including classics like the Pontiac GTO, Ford Mustang and Chevrolet Camaro. Their equivalents today are more sophisticated luxury vehicles like the Aston Martin or Maserati. But for Mr. Holmstrom, they just aren't the same. "A real muscle car doesn't have 19 air bags," he says. "It just has a big, powerful engine that makes your heart stop every time you stomp on the accelerator - Wall Street Journal

Darwin Holmstrom has written, co-written, or contributed to over thirty books on subjects ranging from motorcycles and muscle cars to Gibson Les Paul guitars, including Indian Motorcycles, GTO:

Fifty Years, Let's Ride: Sonny Barger's Guide to Motorcycling, Top Muscle: The Rarest Cars from America's Fastest Decade, BMW Motorcycles, The Life Harley-Davidson, and The Complete Idiot's Guide to Motorcycles. Darwin is the senior editor for Motorbooks. Prior to that he served as Midwestern editor for Motorcyclist magazine. Since 1983, Tom Glatch has contributed hundreds of stories and photographs to major collector, Corvette, Mustang, muscle car, and Mopar magazines. Tom grew up during the muscle car era, and his first car was a very quick 1970 Plymouth Duster 340. Tom and his wife Kelly have contributed photographs to books by other Motorbooks authors, as well as Motorbooks' Corvette calendars. When not pursuing old muscle cars, Tom works for a Fortune 500 corporation as a data and systems analyst and developer. He lives in southeastern Wisconsin with his wife and two children, daughter Keara and son Sean.

American Muscle Cars is much more than it appears. The book comes in the format of a coffee table picture book but unlike those the content is much more than the vapid caption/commentary that's the usual fare. And the photography is excellent too. If you want a great retrospective and tour through the history of American muscle cars for gearheads of any age this book is an excellent choice. But especially as a gift for any muscle car lover who grew up in the 60's, 70's or 80's. Cars are covered from 1960 through 2015 showing how the muscle car story has continued. While I got this as a gift I cheated and read/looked it over first :-(. I was delighted by it so I knew my nephew would be. When he opened the present he looked it over and went off to a chair to begin reading it. I knew it was a hit! I've given him muscle car books with great photos before but this is a notably better written book than those older ones that were mostly just photos. American Muscle! If you are a muscle car fan who likes to read as well as look at the pictures this is an excellent book for you. Heck! If you just like to look at the pictures, it's still outstanding! Because it's beautifully photographed, has excellent and well written text AND thrilled my gearhead middle Nephew I have to give American Muscle Cars 5 stars.

The book does a good job covering the vintage Muscle Cars (including AMC!) but lacks coverage on the modern Dodge Challenger and Charger. While it covers the 2015 & 2016 Mustang and Camaro, there is no mention of the Scat Pack Challengers or Chargers and no photos of the Hellcat Challenger or Chargers. Disappointing as these are the most powerful Muscle Cars to date...

great

Got this for my son. He loves it... Great pictures

love the book

Excellent

The bad thing about this book is that it might make you go outside, look at whatever egg-shaped crossover is parked in your driveway, and wonder where your life went wrong. The best thing about this book is that it may make you get rid of that ugly thing and buy what you really want, a Trans Am or Challenger or Chevelle. This is the first book of its kind that I have actually owned. I have looked at many of them but never pulled the trigger. A car book too often is just a collection of photographs with the writing little more than glorified captions. American Muscle Cars goes far beyond this. If you were blind and someone read it to you, it would be money well spent. If you couldn't read and just looked at the pictures, it would be money well spent. In short, the smoothly written text and lush photography are both awesome on their own, but here they work in concert to give you one hell of an enjoyable education on the history of the muscle car. Very nicely done!

Just when I thought I would never, ever see another book about American muscle cars, out comes this book. I was skeptical, as the topic has been written about a whole lot of times. I was, however, really impressed. Probably the best book of this genre I have read, and there have been many! The author is quite good. One of the best I have read on this topic. Great photos, too. Even if you have read a lot of books on this topic please do not rule this one out. Take the time to savor it. It is that good. I just wish Motorbooks would print their books in the USA and not China:(In spite of this fact the book is very informational and a very good read.

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