

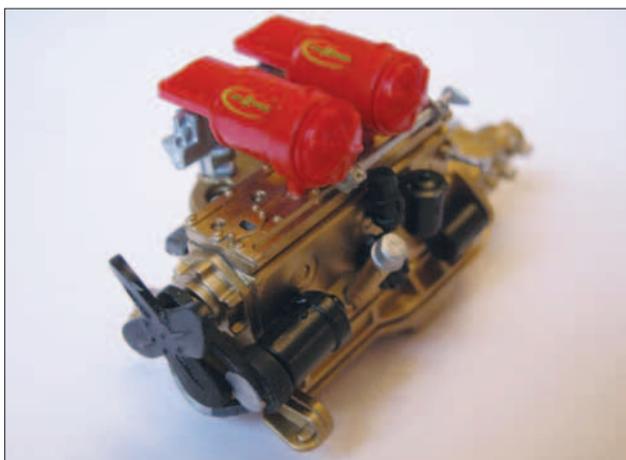
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Moebius Models 1953 Hudson Hornet

A plastic model kit that has been engineered to near perfection.

It is impossible to think of NASCAR stock car racing in the 1950s without thinking of the Fabulous Hudson Hornet. Manufactured by the Hudson Motor Car Company from 1951 through 1954, the car was an instant success with both the racing crowd and the public. A unique "Step Down" frame design lowered the center of gravity and a beefy 145hp six-cylinder engine gave the car plenty of power. The Hudson Hornet won 27 NASCAR Grand National races in 1952, followed by 22 wins in 1953 and 17 wins in 1954. But, it wasn't just a hit on the racetrack, as the



The first order of business was assembling the six-cylinder in-line 145hp dual-carb flathead engine. public was drawn to its luxurious image. Some said it was even more luxurious than a Cadillac.

For years, scale automotive modelers have begged for a model of this famous car. Finally, Moebius Models has stepped up to the plate with its very first automotive subject, the 1953 Hudson Hornet. Let's grab a hobby knife and a bottle of glue, and see how this kit builds.

The box is very sturdy and attractive, with box art featuring an artist's rendition of a Hudson Hornet parked in front of a vintage gas station. And the sides of the box are filled with photographs of the finished model. Upon opening the box, builders are greeted by several carefully packed and sealed bags. The parts, and there are over 120, are very crisply molded in a light beige color. The chrome parts are nicely done and the beautiful tires feature pre-printed whitewalls. The

instruction sheet is more like a magazine, printed on heavy glossy paper, featuring color painting and detailing tips along with a list of period-correct factory colors.

The first step in construction is the "Twin-H-Power" engine, and it is comprised of 28 individual pieces. The basic block assembly should be painted gold, and the accessory pieces are painted in various metallic shades. The air cleaners should be a bright red and Italian Red works well. The finished engine looks great, but experienced modelers could add wiring and plumbing to make the engine a model in its own right.

The parts are engineered for a superb fit, but enlarging the attachment holes is actually a good idea, especially after a coat of paint. As a side note, the first production run of these kits had defective decals, and the yellow air cleaner decals disappear when applied.



The interior was painted period-correct and looks good even without the proper documentation.

Moebius Models is fully aware of the problem and will gladly send a replacement set of decals if contacted.

The chassis assembly goes together very well. The basic frame is painted semi-gloss black with the other chassis components painted different shades of gloss and flat black for contrast. The exhaust and driveshaft can be a little fiddly, so a little extra patience is beneficial during assembly. As with the engine, enlarging the attachment holes a bit will also help. A black wash was applied to bring out the detail on the hubcaps, and then



The frame was painted with shades of flat, semi-gloss and gloss black paint to offer some contrast.

the tires are slipped on the wheels. When assembled, the chassis assembly sits square and level, a car modelers dream come true.

The interior builds up beautifully, and everything fits just as it should. The color of the plastic seemed to be a good contrast with a medium tan, so the seat and door panel inserts were masked off and the tops and bottoms were sprayed tan. With no factory documentation for reference this may or may not be correct, but it looks good, and this is what matters the most. The dash itself should be painted the body color, in this case gloss black. Moebius Models has supplied excellent decals for the instrument panel. The dash and the separate door panels were detailed with Bare-Metal Foil. A coat of dark brown paint on the carpet brings the interior to life.

While the interior was drying, the engine and firewall are attached to the frame. While everything goes together



In the 1950s instrument panels were made of steel and were painted the same color as the body. And they had lots of chrome and brushed aluminum trim.

quite well, it can be a little tedious getting some of the parts to fit into their proper places. Taking a little extra time test fitting the pieces will pay off in the long run.

Painting the body was a simple task. The roof was masked and the body was sprayed with Gloss Black. Once the base color had dried, the masking was removed and the body was sprayed with clear lacquer. Bare-Metal Foil was then applied to the body where appropriate, burnished down, and trimmed to shape. One of the options included in the kit is a custom windshield sun visor, a very popular 1950s accessory. To use the visor, the attachment holes on the car roof will need to be opened from inside the body, and this should be done before painting.

Now comes the moment we've all been waiting for, final assembly. The glass is installed first, and it fits per-

fectly. White glue is the best choice for attaching clear plastic parts, as it dries clear and can be wiped off visible surfaces with tap water. The chrome parts also fit perfectly, another testimony to the engineering of this kit. Once all those parts are in place, the body assembly can be slipped over the chassis. The fit is so good, glue is not needed. The hood hinges and props were left off the review model, so the model could be displayed with the



Any automobile modeler will be pleased with the amount of detail presented in the engine bay.

hood closed, but should the builder wish to display the vehicle with an open hood, the hinges could be attached during this assembly step. After one last final polish, the model is ready for the display case.

More a fan of 1960s muscle cars, at first I was not terribly enthusiastic about building a Hudson Hornet. But, after seeing the way this kit is engineered, I was drawn in and decided to go ahead with the build. It didn't take long; halfway through assembling the engine, I was completely hooked. This is just about as close to a perfect kit as I've seen. It is a joy to build, and can be the focal point in any display case.



The model assembles into a beautiful recreation of the low-slung high-speed masterpiece of design.

Moebius Models lists the Hornet as a Skill Level-3 kit, so it is probably not the best choice for beginners, but experienced modelers will most likely love this kit. For Moebius Models' first attempt at a model car kit, they have not only stepped up to the plate with the Hudson Hornet, but with near engineering perfection, they've hit the ball clear out of the park. **HM**