



Matt White

# From Down Under

## Classic Muscle: Oldsmobile 4-4-2

**Exact Detail captures this revered American power machine in 1/18 scale.**



*Skillfully modeled and accurately painted in Oldsmobile Viking blue, the Exact Detail 4-4-2 is a muscle car collector's dream.*

You can thank John Z. DeLoorean for the Oldsmobile 442. It was brought to life to compete with the Pontiac Tempest GTO, which had proved to be an unexpected success midway through the 1964 model year.

The car arrived late in the 1964 season, and Oldsmobile called the new option package "4-4-2," based on the combination of four-barrel carburetor, four-speed transmission, and dual exhaust. It was available on Cutlass and F-85 models, and it could be ordered on coupes and sedans, of which only 10 sedans were built with this option.

In 1965, the Pontiac GTO received GM corporate sanction, and Oldsmobile countered with a big-engine 442. The option package was renamed 442, a new 400-cubic-inch engine became standard, and the definition "442" was restated as 400 cubic inches, 4-barrel carburetor, 2 exhausts. Output of the big engine was quoted as 345 horsepower.

The 442 became a separate model from 1968 through 1971, and was reinstated as an option for 1972.

Offering a worthy range of American muscle cars that includes classic examples of 1/18-scale Camaro, Firebird, Chevelle and Shelby models, Exact Detail has recently released a new addition to their Oldsmobile range in the form of the 4-4-2 from the 1972 season.

Finished in Viking blue, the big coupe is nicely finished, and comes with contrasting white pin striping and white trim. The body shape reflects nicely on the original, and overall the look is subtle and quite restrained compared to its competition. The split grille was an Oldsmobile feature, which made spotting one a whole lot easier.

The distinctive grille is there in all its chrome-plated glory, and under the hood of the model sits the plumbed



*From every angle, this 1/18-scale die-cast muscle car looks as if it just rolled off the Oldsmobile assembly line.*



Classic 4-4-2 livery and metal trim are faithfully replicated in miniature on this Exact Detail model, right down to the split chrome grille. The powerful, 180 horsepower 350-cubic-inch V8 is revealed in all its glory, simply by lifting the dual-louvered hood.



*Detail is an overworked and often abused word in modeling, although it surely has its place when used to describe the interiors of the Olds 4-4-2. Front and rear seat belts, folding front seats with chrome trim and headrests complement the dash and trunk details.*

and wired replica Rocket 350 V8 engine. This motor was available in two outputs — 160 horsepower and 180 horsepower — and if that was not enough power, the optional 455-cubic-inch engine offered three different states of tune, including a 300-horsepower version.



*Underside appointments are as impressive as the body work. Note the accurately labeled oil filter canister.*

The rest of the engine bay contains a good level of detail. The Delco battery is wired, the brake lines exit the brake booster and the washer has clean water in it. The doors of the pillar-less coupe open to allow access to the interior. The combination of the white trim and black carpets is a reminder of just how stylish the 1970's really were; flared pants anyone?

The 442's dashboard is a little basic; all the gauges are there, but these are only decals, and lower an otherwise high standard of trimming. The remainder of the dashboard has been accented by the

The bucket seats fold forward to allow entry into the rear seating area, where 1/18-scale passengers would find their seatbelts. These are lap type and matched by the front belts, which have sash belts attached to the roof. Exact Detail has also fitted folding sun visors. The trim looks smart and the woodgrain finish on the dashboard and center console complete the interior decor.

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chrome-look trim around the vents, air conditioning controls and radio. The big shifter for the automatic gearbox takes center stage in the console.

The trunk benefits from having an authentic Firestone spare tire and wheel fitted, and it also has a jack molded into the floor. The placards for the jacking and wheel-changing instructions are clearly printed and are easily read. On the exterior, the Firestone wide-oval tires are well molded and the white-lettered side-walls look just right. The wheels are color-coded to the body-work and the use of chrome finishing elevates the presentation. Sitting on operating suspension, complete with front and rear coil springs, the coupe can be displayed with its front wheels in different positions thanks to its poseable steering.

Underneath the car, the dual-pipe exhaust system runs from the engine bay and ends in twin chrome-tipped pipes. The differential and drive shaft are fully detailed, and the usage of wire to replicate the fuel lines is a great visual feature.

Presented in fully decorated display packaging, the Oldsmobile 442 (item #313) from Exact Detail is a licensed product of General Motors and is offered in a limited edition of 996 units. **HM**

Opening doors, hood and trunk reveal the maker's strict attention to accuracy and meticulous detail. The 4-4-2 is licensed by General Motors and a limited edition of 996 pieces.



*Auto-on-the-floor, slotted-spoke steering wheel, correct instrumentation and air-co vents enhance the interior.*



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