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Model Kit Report

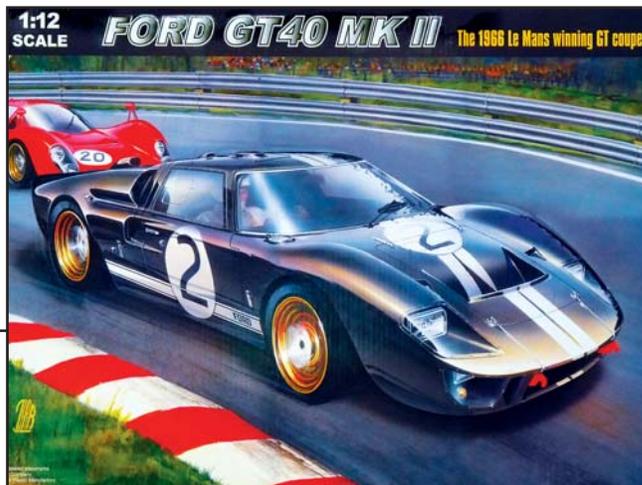
Trumpeter 1:12 Scale Ford GT40 MKII

1966 LeMans winning GT40 is brought to us in stunning detail

Trumpeter Model kits available from Stevens International are known for their interesting, historically significant subjects that have a high level of detail, accuracy and quality. Perhaps the most noteworthy of the recent releases is the Ford licensed 1966 LeMans winning GT Coupe in 1:12 scale (#05403). This is a big kit that's packed with detail and accuracy. Tooled and engineered with the usual high quality typical of Trumpeter, this is a great build for an advanced modeler.

GT is short for Gran Turismo, cars designed for performance in the long haul. In the 1960's Ford wanted to control the European endurance racing circuit, with LeMans being the biggest race. After a failed attempt to buy Ferrari in 1963, Ford decided to build its own super car. The Ford GT appeared in 1964. The chassis and undercarriage were built in England. The basic engine was taken from a newly released Ford Fairlane muscle car.

Design issues made the original GT's the laughing stock of the racing circuit. In 1965, however, with upgraded aerodynamics, better gearboxes and cast iron Shelby engines, the 40" tall MKII made a better showing, winning several races. The next year, in a do-or-die race for the program's funding, three Ford GT40 MKII's raced to a photo finish win at LeMans. This broke the six-year winning streak by Ferrari. A Ford GT40 MKII won LeMans for the next three years.



The Trumpeter GT40 MKII from Stevens International comes in a large box loaded with carefully packaged, masterfully tooled and injected parts that will build up to a highly detailed, highly accurate replica of the famous race car.

Of the 100 MKIIs built, few were groomed for endurance racing. The #2 Ford GT40 that won LeMans in 1966 is represented in this stunningly accurate Trumpeter Model kit. From the price tag alone this kit is not for the inexperienced builder. It is nonetheless a truly spectacular model, even in the box. The body, chassis, frame and clear parts are packaged in a separate box



Carefully packaged in a separate box, the body parts, frame, chassis and major clear parts of the Trumpeter Ford GT40 MKII arrive in the best of shape, with accuracy and detail.

within a larger box. The windows and windshield are wrapped in a protective paper and bagged separately. Each major body part is also separately wrapped. Another inner box contains the four rubber tires and foam inserts that help the tires keep their shape. A hefty packet of separately packaged detail parts includes several springs and flexible tubing. The packet also includes various valves, pegs, bolts, clips, screws and nuts used to accurize the model or hold it together.

Also included are a length of steel cable and two sizes of woven sleeving for making super-detailed hoses and lines. A sheet of foam holds two washers for the rear suspension.

All of these parts in all their different mediums are about super detailing. Over 300 parts with 16 sprues, five of them being chrome, make up this kit. The instructions

are well diagrammed with part numbers, painting references and other comments clearly presented. A brief history of the Ford GT program and the Ford GT40 MKII is part of the front cover of the booklet. Parts maps fill the



Stevens presents the 1:12 Trumpeter Ford GT40 MKII. This is one large box of well made, super detailed parts that builds up into a magnificent finished replica of a famous racing car!

pages of the instruction manual. This kit is a challenging and rewarding modeling adventure. Every aspect of the car's design is an assembly in itself. The engine is no exception. This multipart replica of the 427ci FE stock car engine is packed with accuracy and detail. The engine has several chromed and specialty injected parts. The visible sections of the engine block are pre-painted in Champagne Gold and are bagged together. The exhaust pipes are held down with long slender springs. The oil lines are made from the woven sleeving and cleanly injected chrome-plated styrene connector parts. These can be made more accurate with clear colors as specified in the instructions.

The chassis is injected in one piece. Moving front suspension parts are added with springs on the working three-part struts. Photo-etched details raise the accuracy level even more. The major support members and engine are held in place with screws. The engine compartment, frame, and rear suspension are added with springs on the rear shocks. There are also separate torsion bars for the suspension. Detailed disc brakes,

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Among the separately packaged sprues of crisply injected parts is the bag of multi-media detail parts that include steel cables, flexible rubber tubing, photo-etch frets, springs and woven sleeving in two sizes. Rubber tires, crisp decals and well diagrammed instructions top off the presentation.



Trumpeter has set the bar high with attention to quality tooling and injecting. The Ford GT40 MKII kit has lots of sprues of highly detailed, virtually flash free parts molded in several colors and chromed.

front and rear, finish off the suspension. The wheels are held on with small screws hidden by "knock-off" hubs.

The cockpit bucket also gets studded with detail parts like the pumps and other major organs of the car's various systems. Pre-printed paper seat belts with photo-etched and styrene buckles detail the twin bucket seats. The instrument faces for the dash are crisply printed on the decal sheet. The assembled steering wheel attaches through the dash to an opposite pinion that is part of the front suspension. The front suspension and the steering are both operational. The roll bar completes the cockpit bucket before it becomes part of the chassis.

Styrene and photo-etched details top off the body with its opening front and rear sections along with door panels that are complete with steel restraining cables. All that detail is visible. The inside surface of the rear body has a Mylar heat shield over the engine compartment. The front section has metal pins and cotter pin clips, which are held with steel cables to keep the front compartment closed!

Stevens International has brought an incredibly detailed kit of a famous automotive subject to the market. Your customers will find that this kit exhibits the usual high quality the market has come to expect from Trumpeter Models. This is truly a grand modeling adventure ending with a super-detailed, super-accurate replica of a famous racecar. **HM**