

CMC's 1/18scale Auto Union C-type

The Auto Union C-type was the principal car in 1936 as part of the 750kg formula.

During this year, Bernd Rosemeyer was dominant and was crowned European Champion.

In 1937, the Mercedes replaced their W25 with the W125 and the Auto Union C-type met greater challenge. However, Rosemeyer won from time to time and most memorably at the Donington Grand Prix, at Donington Park. This interesting car, designed by Ferdinand Porsche had a 6 litre, 16 cylinder engine positioned behind the driver, supercharged by a Roots compressor. By today's standard, this Grand Prix engine was low revving at 5000 rpm, rather than 18-20,000 rpm in modern F1 cars.

Once again, CMC have excelled with their quality rendition of this Grand Prix car.

Presented in 1/18 scale, this hand assembled model comprises an amazing 1026 parts, 23 of them being die-cast, only 151 are of plastic. The larger number of parts are of metal (754), many being of copper and photo-etch type. Rivets, screws and screw heads make up a further 96 parts. Additionally, there is an upholstered seat and a leather head-rest. Some parts are removable, namely the spark plugs, front hood and rear engine cover via locking catches of rubber ring type. The intricately spoked wire wheels are also removable by unscrewing an engraved double-winged central locking nut. The radiator grill is exquisite and the drum brakes are fully detailed with a wonderful representation of the cockpit including fully detailed rev counter, gear shift, hand brake and fuel filler behind (with mesh filter even). Perfectly detailed aeroscreen and wing mirrors adorn the cockpit edge, which also includes the pedals neatly fixed on a sculpted cockpit floor.

On opening the front and rear body panels, the great variety of metal and plastic parts can be seen, detailed with all sorts of wiring and cables, represented by an equally varied choice of materials, producing a most authentic engine.

The overall shape of this wonderful car was very modern for its time, being tear-drop shaped when viewed from above. Again, the fantastically smooth and shiny exterior is extremely appealing when combined with the sheer quantity and extent of detailing throughout the model. All this, represents extremely good value for money (approx £115) and for me still represents the best value die-cast models seen in 1/18 scale.