

CMC's 1/18scale Mercedes W125

When I first unpacked CMC's W125, I was bowled over with the style, presentation and execution of this masterpiece of die-cast modelling. This gem of a model is a real treat to examine and absorb, compare with research photos and appreciate luxury in model-making. With the model before you, you may experience otherwise uncharacteristic possessiveness for time alone, without any distraction. CMC have lavished excellence upon the purchaser for fantastic value for money at around £116 (race numbered version, approximately £125). It is true that having accepted all its beauty and the approach to representation, the purists would say that the perfection of the model's polished painted surface, the exact detailing in one or two areas may be less than authentic. However, this Silver Arrow, like the rest of the Grand Prix cars of the 750kg Formula of 1937 was an art form in itself, especially when viewed from the early 21st century. CMC have expressed their love of detail combined with their study and research, to produce an artistic perfection of the original form in such a way that appeals massively to those of us who delight in these older cars and appreciate the artform of the era.

1937 was Mercedes' year, winning seven of the twelve Grands Prix with Rudolph Caracciola, Hermann Lang and Manfred von Brauchitsch, the Briton Dick Seaman also in the team. The main opposition was the Auto Union C-type, driven by the sensational Bernd Rosemeyer who won four of the twelve races including that awe-inspiring experience for British race goers, at Donington Park in October 1937.

The model comes in a high quality box, is accompanied by a technical specification card also detailing the car's place in motoracing. Within, is a carefully crafted polystyrene compartment with various model-specific notes to ensuring the purchaser of CMC's dedication to their product and their customer's enjoyment. Then only, the car lovingly wrapped in polystyrene cloth is just visible, the gleaming polished paintwork and stainless steel fittings filling one with excited anticipation. One is not to be disappointed as the weighty quality model is unwrapped, revealing an overall impression of perfection and vocational attention to detail. A serial-number card loosely attached to one front wheel, assures one of the model's origin and adds to the sense of exclusivity. The radiator grill assembled from many parts, the wheels with real spokes, the brakes, the cockpit detailing such as moveable aero-screen, use of mirror glass and the turned aluminium dashboard are really impressive. If that's not enough, the engine cover can be removed having un-hooked the working bonnet latches, revealing the mouthwatering engine, a model in itself. The fuel hatch opens and the wheels rotate. The wood effect and metal steering wheel complements the cloth-covered seat, additionally steering the front wheels. The exhaust manifold is actual metal with a chrome finish and has heat-effect hues, sensitively and skilfully applied. The latter feature and the quality of the overall execution set CMC's offerings apart from other similar cost die-casts, in my opinion. The only drawback, is that when you've seen and handled *one*, you will want to collect *the whole set!*