

## Cars In Scale

By Jay Engel

The end of the 2nd Quarter brings 3 very exciting, very different premium 1/18 scale die casts into the marketplace. All of them possess the myriad features collectors have come to expect as greater technical advances in the industry come to fore. It is these advances, and their interpretation by each manufacturer that intrigues. It is the diversity of the chosen subject matter, however, that causes total excitement!

From EXOTO, a maker extolled for its wonderful outside the box thinking and ferocious attention to detail, is presented the 1988 NISSAN NISMO R89 GROUP C prototype LeMans car. Finished in glorious NISSAN Racing Blue, the sexual shape of this wonderful LeMans contender begs for deeper inspection. Removing the front and rear panels reveals the marvel of minute detail; the 3.5L 950 BHP V8 and its Kevlar and carbon fiber-based monocoque chassis are bared for all to see. The VRH35Z V8, fully wired and plumbed, functional front and rear suspension, race detailed interior, and functional, pit-serviceable LOCKABLE HYDRAULIC JACKS make this one gorgeous and very desirable piece. EXOTO.COM, \$299.95

GMP is making a most exciting and innovative move up market and out of market (for the guys from Winder, that is) with the introduction of the totally stunning 1967 Ferrari 330 P4 in precision 1/18 scale. This is a full on LeMans machine designed to look like a sports car; its beauty is renowned. This is the car that swept Daytona, placing 1-2-3. The image immediately seduces with its curvaceously low lines and sleek aggressive demeanor... a virtue GMP has captured to the Nth degree. This beautiful beast features the usual opening panels, as expected, but goes so much deeper with the addition of lift off front and rear panels, functional suspension, opening fuel doors, metal bulkhead and radiators, fully detailed interior to include an authentic crinkle finished dash with even a key in the ignition!. The ultra detailed 3967 cc DOHC V12 is intimately replicated right down to the last decal. The magnificent gold painted wheels, removable allow full on display braking system, are just icing on the cake!. This is GMP on the go!!! GMPDIECAST.COM \$269.95

CMC has chosen a lower profile for its premiere introduction for 2008. The Porsche 901 made its debut at the Paris Auto Show in September 1964. Production began on September 14, 1964 was halted after only 82 units were built due to a "trademark infringement" protest from Peugeot. The remonikered "911" resumed production on October 28 launching an automotive dynasty that persists to this day! The 901 becomes then, a highly collectible rarity, much sought after by collectors worldwide.

The first thing you notice about this beautiful Ivory coupe is how "real" it appears to be. The quality of this piece leaps out at you the moment you open the presentation module. The finish is perfect as CMC uses ICI "2K" urethane automotive paint perfectly matched to Porsche's paint chips. Metal is metal; the chromed parts look real because they are chromed metal, not flash chrome over plastic. The crystal clear glazing is not only framed in chrome but imbedded in black rubber seals. As the minute details comprising the entirety of this image reveal themselves you start to understand why this model comes off as being so life-like!. It'll take several sittings with this one to sift thru all of its many charms.. but with a parts count of 871, it's not an easy task... but it sure is a lot of fun!

Here're a few highlights: the engine cover grille is comprised of 12 horizontal louvers and vertical stainless steel strips over a perfect die cut stainless steel grid of diamond cut design... just like the prototype. The fuel filler door opens to reveal vertical and horizontal leather protective flaps, opening to reveal the gas cap. The wipers consist of stamped metal pieces with rubber blades properly inserted.... and then there are the stamped steel wheels... removing the hubcap, you will

find 5 perfectly miniaturized lug nuts removable via the supplied lug wrench.  
Both front and rear hatches open and close with the aid of appropriate springs and air struts.  
The engine bay is chock full of all the gizmos you would expect to find in the replication of the 6 cylinder boxer engine and transaxle. Flip the model and you'll see the working independent suspension of transverse and longitudinal control arms... all in metal.

The interior is exquisite. The seat material is authentic patterned cloth bordered in leather. Carpeting is scaled pile carpeting while the dash and steering wheel have faux wood that has to be seen under magnification. The flip down sun visors even feature a vanity mirror insert.. . The list can go on forever. Succinctly, this is the most amazing interior execution I've ever seen in this scale. I'd like to go on record saying that this museum quality image is the absolute state of the art in 1/18 scale modeling. This comes from a company mindset that sitting on one's laurels is simply not to be tolerated; CMC, once again, raises the bar.  
[CMC-modelcars.com/us](http://CMC-modelcars.com/us) \$319.00