

## CMC Maserati Birdcage

By Jay Engel

Just when you thought you could go back about your 1/18 scale business, CMC launches another blockbuster in the image of the fabulous 1960 Maserati Tipo 61 Birdcage! The graceful body was designed by the Italian mastermind Giulio Alfieri, who integrated a light frame of barely 30 kg with more than 200 single pieces of aluminum tubing. If you were to remove the sheet metal skin on this image, you would find a religiously replicated aluminum skeleton that is, in itself, an incredible scale model.

Lucky Casner was one of the most successful owner/drivers of the Birdcage. In May 1960, Stirling Moss and Dan Gurney won the 1000 KM race at Nuremberg in the 1:1 of this very car battling torrential rain and the stiffest of competition.... One year later, the Camoradi Team (Casner Motor Racing Division) repeated the winning record with Casner and Gregory as drivers. These consecutive victories added to the Maserati mystique in racing circles around the world. Only 23 of these cars ever rolled out of Maserati between 1959 and 1961 but their legend was cast regardless.

The CMC's replica roadster is composed of 1140 single parts, 507 of which are crafted of stainless steel, copper, and brass all wrapped up in museum quality attention to detail. The wire wheels are a work of automotive sculpture in themselves and remove to reveal the minute, OPERATING detail of the disc brakes and independent suspension. The interior, stark and purposeful, reveals more of the birdcage structure amid the 2 seat accommodation of the cabin and is punctuated by the presence of the large wood rimmed Nardi steering wheel. Peer through the windshield overview and you will see the fully operational steering gear exactly lifted from the prototype and reduced to 1/18 scale.

This one's available right now! CMC Classical Model Cars, Rochester, New York.



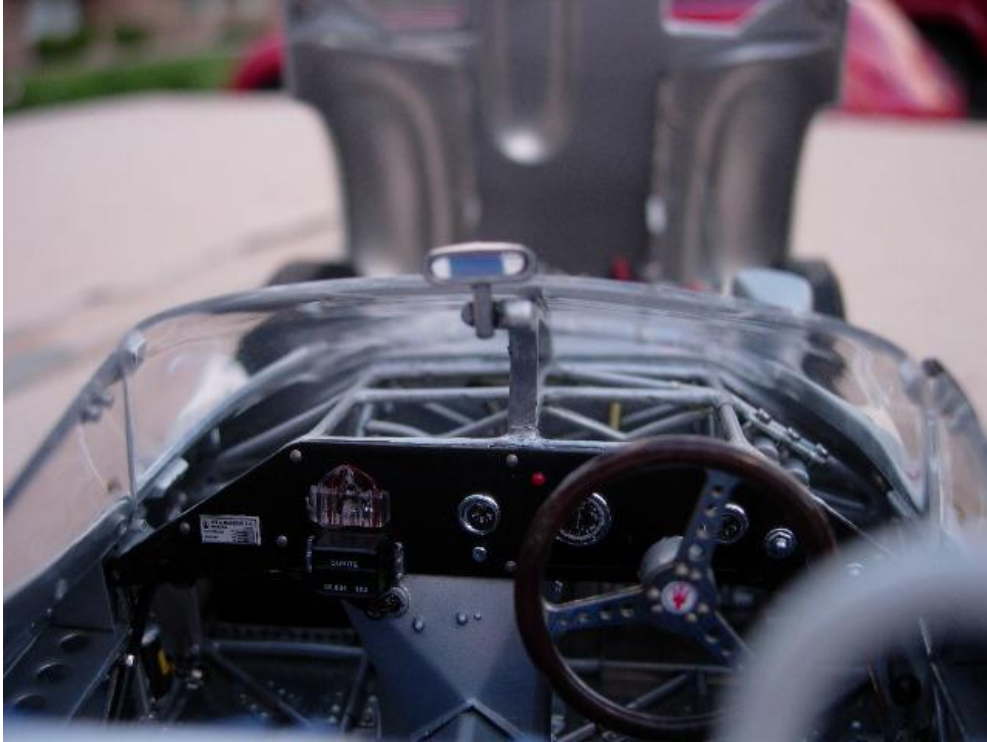
If it were alive, this Maserati would eat you!!!!



The shape is pure sex.



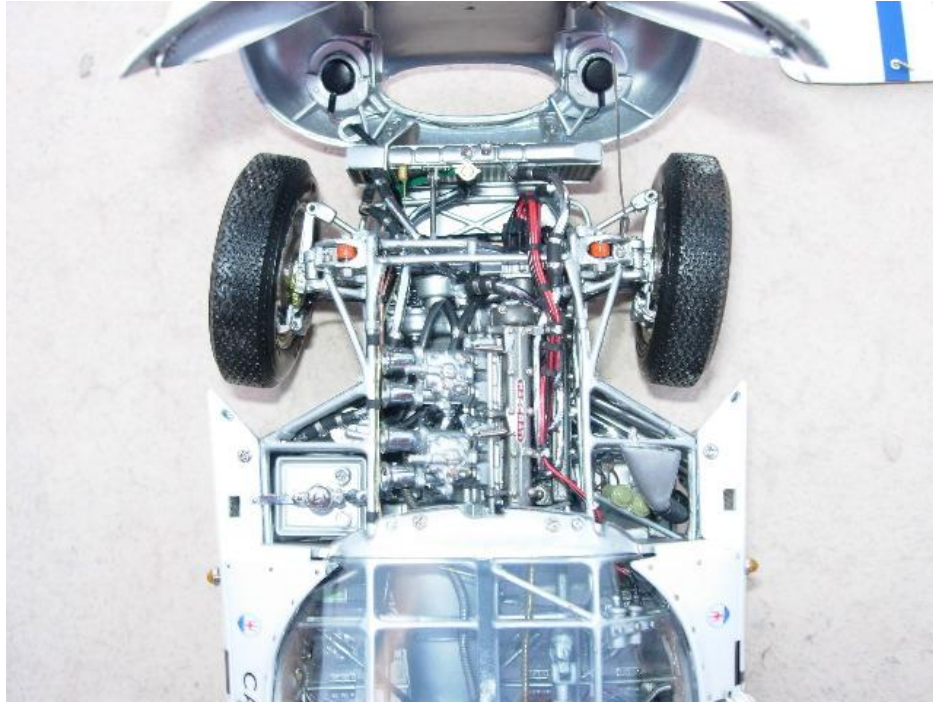
The interior is quite stark and business like.



Messrs Moss and Gurney spent several wet hours in the 1:1 cabin on the way to victory!



The deck lid removes to reveal an exquisitely reprised spare wheel and tire as well as the gas tank complete with opening cap. The spare is of course, removable, but this fumble fingers will leave well enough alone!



The front hinge-roof hood opens to reveal the 2890 cc 4 cylinder 250 hp engine, cooling system, and front suspension... fully operable to mimic the actions of the prototype.



Even at rest, this Maserati looks restless and aggressive like the real thing, this model is a real winner!