



**THE DIECAST**  
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The world was in the grip of the Great Depression. The Nazi Party gained power in Germany in 1933 and to ensure the motor racing pride of Nazi Germany would be upheld on the world stage, the Minister of Transport instigated a scheme where a prize of 450,000 Reichsmarks would be awarded to the company who could deliver a winning grand prix car. The teams would also be presented with cash prizes for podium finishes in every race of the season.

At the time two companies were at the forefront of motor racing in Germany: Mercedes-Benz and Auto Union. A new racing formula based on a maximum vehicle weight of 750kg was announced for the 1934 season and both teams hurried to build a car that would be competitive.

Viewed publicly for the first time at scrutineering for the Eifel race at the Nurburgring, the Mercedes-Benz W25

was a stunning sight in the traditional German racing color of white. As part of the scrutineering process, each vehicle was to be weighed. With much concern on the scrutineers' behalf, it was revealed the Mercedes-Benz did in fact weigh 751kg, making it ineligible under the new formula. Time was short and the car must race, but how would Mercedes-Benz solve this problem?

Working through the night, mechanics did the only thing they could to reduce the weight of the vehicle – sanding the paint off to reveal the gleaming aluminum bodywork. Driver Manfred Von Braunschweig not only started the race on time with a legal car, he won it! The legend of the Silver Arrow had begun.

Capturing this moment in time is exactly what CMC has achieved in the release of the Mercedes-Benz W25 in 1:18 scale. As

always with any CMC model the attention to detail is of the highest standard.

As a legacy of the Gordon Bennett series of motor races held between 1900 and 1905, the Benz wears a coat of white paint. This era was where the tradition of painting national colors such as British racing green, Italian red and French blue on racing cars was born.

From its rounded nose to the finned rear, the replica is beautifully modeled. The finish on the paintwork has a deep glossy sheen, which is without fault. The molding of the louvers on the hood and bodywork is a high point, as is the opening gas filler on the rear fin directly aft of the driver's headrest.

The model is surprisingly petite in overall size, just as it was in 1:1 scale. But what the model lacks in size, it makes up for in weight!



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Mercedes-Benz W125





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On opening the hood via the spring-loaded latches, you discover a scale representation of the 207ci straight eight engine awaits your inspection, and there is a lot to see! The supercharger is there between the radiator and the block, and other highlights include scale wiring, tubing and an amazing metal exhaust system with eight individual pipes, which converge into a single unmuffled pipe exiting at the rear of the car. Individual fluid tanks are topped by highly polished caps, which add to the already high level of finish.

Protected behind the smallest windscreen possible (which pivots), the cockpit is dominated by the massive chest-height four-spoke steering wheel. The imitation machine-turned instrument panel is incredibly detailed and contains a full array of gauges that are clearly visible. Sitting in the soft-feel corduroy-look driver's seat, the large gearlever falls easily to the 1:18 scale hand, while the handbrake is on the left side of the cockpit.

The pedals are all present and correct within the footwell.

Whenever you see footage of these vehicles doing battle back in their day, they are constantly sideways, drifting and seemingly oblivious to the laws of physics. This is caused by the combination of 350bhp of grunt, a 750kg weight and skinny tires. The Benz sits on a set of Continental-branded balloon tires and these contain the most incredibly detailed wire wheels in 1:18.

Apart from the numerous spokes of each wheel, they also feature chrome-finished air valves. Directly behind them are the four wheel drum brakes complete with small cooling scoops and cross-drilled edges.

Every CMC diecast model car is a highlight. The build quality is fantastic and the mostly limited build numbers make them highly desirable to collectors everywhere. The Mercedes-Benz W25 is no exception.