



GSB Design Concepts

Runnin' At Redline

7/9/17

Guest Shot: Gene Mills

I've known Gene for a number of years, but we have never met face-to-face. Another one of those Internet perks! You get to meet people of similar interests that you normally may have never known about. He really is a pleasure to deal with on auctions! Always has a positive spin on things when he emails.

Gene caught my interest on a diecast forum when I started

noticing his skills as a model builder. Later, I saw that he turned up on a builder's site!

What really caught my attention was Gene's build of the old Monogram '66 Malibu. This kit is a bear! I've had it out a number of times, only to pack it back up and place it on the shelf.

What Gene has done is nothing short of phenomenal. With that in mind, here is Gene's story. I've let him tell it in his own words since he is my guest today. Gene also supplied all the photos!

Hope you enjoy this!

Gene's '66 Malibu Build:

Monogram's '66 Malibu SS

Building models had seemed to come easy for me early on, I had built my first when I was around 10. It was the AMT '71 Ford Thunderbird. What can I say, it was my first build so you all surely know the results if you remember your first build.

However, I was not easily discouraged. I went on building, learning on my own as I went. Going to friends' houses and building, picking up tips here and there, I eventually got fairly decent at building. I love to build, it's fun and relaxing. Will I ever be the proverbial pro builder? Not likely, but I do try to do better with each subsequent build.

As a teen I had a pretty fair size collection of models on several shelves in my room until the R/C bug bit me, I ended up trading

all my models for R/C items. I'm still kicking myself to this day for doing that.

With life, work, marriage and a child to care for I had gotten away from modeling for well over 20 years but had started collecting 1/24 diecast cars.

After DM and FM tanked building diecast, I was wanting for something. Wanting to add cars to my collection that they never got to or ones that had grown out of my price range on the secondary market. Curt, a dear friend of mine invited me to go to a model show in Toledo. I was amazed at the talent I was looking at on those tables.

Anyone that says building isn't an artform in its own right, hasn't really looked at what these men are capable of building. Anyway, the bug had bitten again. I dove in hard and went to work wanting to create my own images. I still have several going on at once.

I jump back and forth between building kits and modifying diecasts. This model is one I was looking to add to my collection, as a good diecast version never really was made and the '66 is my all time favorite Chevelle.



The kit isn't really a bad kit, it just takes work to make it what you want. I actually used the chassis from an extra Monogram '64 GTO as they shared pretty much the same platform.

I had at this point already decided to build this as a curbside model since I don't display my models with doors, hood, etc., open. I was looking for the image. First off cleaning up the parts from mold lines, flash and so forth I cut and filled the opening for the hood scoop with the stock hood scoops from a spare Lindberg kit hood.

Next was attaching the flip front to the body with 2 part epoxy, filling the part lines in the fenders and scribing the hood lines in and getting it in primer.



Extra time detailing is time well spent!

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Next up was getting the interior and chassis done. I did build an engine to put in place even though it's a curbside. I didn't want to show the model, turn it over and there be a gaping hole where the engine bay is.







### ***Kit Chrome***

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The model chrome wasn't in real good shape, it seemed thin and worn through in spots. So, I sent parts out to George at GT Kustom Chrome, and they came back in amazing shape.



***Laying Down Color***

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After painting, a beautiful Madeira Maroon, I wet sanded and polished the body, added all the photo-etched detail parts, then Bare Metal Foiled the body. After that, a couple of coats of Wet Look Clear and a final polishing with Turtle Wax Ice. I love this stuff as it leaves no white residue in panel lines to have to clean out. Painted the wheels and got to test fitting everything together.





After getting things the way I liked, it was time to get this thing assembled. The glass was another issue, I had to cut it apart and make the rear window using clear acetate as it was cracked, the rest went in fine. I installed the interior, including a headliner, visors and dome light, exterior door handles, wipers, hood vents, antenna, photo-etched grille in the front end assembly and rear tail panel assembly. It was a challenging build but as you can see, well worth the effort.

Final Assembly and Detailing...







Perfect? No, but it is to my liking and that's what matters. Plus it captures the image in the way I was hoping for. I will continue on to the next project in hopes it'll turn out even better.

Thanks for letting me share this with you. This is my first time writing something like this and I wish I had documented the build a little better. All I can say is keep building, keep learning and strive to reach the next level. We all start somewhere so don't ever let anyone discourage you. Even the pros had to start at the bottom too.

Blessings to you all and until next time, Geno.